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XON

Lee, the Manchester chairman, moved today to try to keep George Graham at Maine Road. The 37-year-old midfielder is on the brink of a contract extension. Lee is keen to keep Graham, but yesterday he told the club's board that the player's future would be decided in a few days. Lee is also keen to keep Graham, but yesterday he told the club's board that the player's future would be decided in a few days.



Tomorrow Full guide
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Inside Section Two



THE INDEPENDENT

3,078

FRIDAY 30 AUGUST 1996

WEATHER: Dry and sunny

40p (MSRP)

Birt begins the BBC break-up

By Mathew Horsman

The BBC has drawn up plans to spin off its largest directorate - which runs studios, outside broadcasting facilities and editing suites - into a separate wholly owned company.

The move will be seen as a first step toward the break-up of the BBC and the privatisation of large chunks of the corporation. The facilities and studios generate sales of more than £700m a year and employ around 9,000 people.

Plans for the spin-off, due to be discussed at a meeting of the BBC board of management next month, are sure to spark intense debate, particularly from unions and MPs, about the future status of the public service broadcaster.

Under the proposals - which according to senior corporation sources have the support of the director-general, John Birt - BBC Resources would become an operating subsidiary, supplying technical support not only to the BBC but to other broadcasters, on a commercial basis. The BBC's own programmes would continue to be serviced by Resources, which is already charging fees to other BBC departments under the controversial "internal market" introduced by Mr Birt.

Speculation is growing within the corporation that the Resources unit as a whole could eventually be privatised, and a management buy-out, led by Resources chief Rod Lynch, has been rumoured. Mr Lynch previously worked at British Airways, Harry Goodman's International Leisure Group, and at Forte, the hotels company, where he was sales and marketing director.

Under the spin-off, the BBC would take a step closer to



Sir Christopher Bland: Supports plan to spin off directorate

operations are to be separated for the first time.

The director-general is also keen to cut costs by a further 15 per cent over three years, and to generate significant commercial revenue, both at home and overseas.

In addition, he is pressing for an above-inflation rise in the licence fee in order to finance the transition to digital.

Commercialising BBC Resources could bolster the case against the licence fee increase, according to a senior BBC

executive: "The changes at BBC Resources in recent years have meant that the operations are now breaking even."

"The strategic question that must be asked is what kind of company BBC Resources should be in the future."

Spinning off the directorate would relieve the BBC of the need to invest hundreds of millions of pounds in new technology to prepare for the introduction of digital television. Broadcasting equipment is rendered obsolete far more quickly than in the past, requiring more frequent upgrading. "It isn't clear to us whether the BBC ought to be spending its budget on such capital expenditure," the executive said.

The BBC Resources proposal will be discussed at a board of management meeting next month, and a detailed business plan is being prepared. Senior BBC sources said last night that if the numbers did not add up, the option would be dropped altogether. But if all appears well, final plans would be put to the Board of Governors, of which Sir Christopher Bland, the former London Weekend Television chief, is chairman. He is also believed to support the proposal.

However, the permission of the Department of National Heritage, which oversees the BBC Charter, would also be required, the sources indicated. "Any change that puts the BBC at commercial risk would have to be reviewed," a spokesman said.

The BBC declined to comment on the plans. It is understood that a memo will be sent to line managers within the next few weeks, outlining the proposals.

Business comment, page 17



John Birt: Focusing on programmes, not hardware. In his hands, the corporation is heading towards the future as a programme-making giant free of the weight of the infrastructure of broadcasting. Photomontage: Jonathan Anstee

Heseltine: Blair will pay price of left

ANTHONY BEVINS
Political Editor

Tony Blair would be at the mercy of the Labour Left and other party dissidents if he became Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine said last night.

While Mr Blair took his political campaign out into the country, getting away from the "froth and bubble" of the latest attack on his leadership, the Deputy Prime Minister exploited Labour's continuing rifts.

Mr Heseltine told the Independent: "Mr Blair would have to depend upon the support of

a significant number of people on the left-wing of the party, and a price would have to be paid for their loyalty.

"Labour's blue touch-paper is still linked to the emotive arguments of yesterday: anti-profit, anti-capital, anti-enterprise. They would have a significant hold over him."

Mr Heseltine warned that the price of the Left would be "extracted" through tax increases, more public spending and concessions on trade union law.

But Mr Blair last night rejected yesterday's attack on him as a Kim Il Sung-style dictator by backbencher Austin Mitchell, saying he wanted to

campaign on the issues like the economy, unemployment and skills and education, health and crime.

During a tour of North Wales and the North-west - part a "people's tour" campaign to sell directly the "New Life for Britain" manifesto to the country - Mr Blair said he wanted to connect with the real world of the voters.

He told BBC radio: "When you're the leader of a political party, if you're not going to fudge and compromise the whole time, you've got to set a clear direction and lead."

Mr Blair said later: "If the media wants to, it can find

somebody in the party to criticise me every day between now and the election."

"The important point is whether those people speak for the party as a whole, whether they represent the centre of gravity, and the direction of the party - and they don't."

That was not the case with the Conservative rebels, like the Euro-sceptics, who represented the new direction of the Conservative party. "Their divisions are seismic," Mr Blair said. "But Mr Heseltine drew his own distinction between Labour and Tory rebels."

He told BBC radio's Today

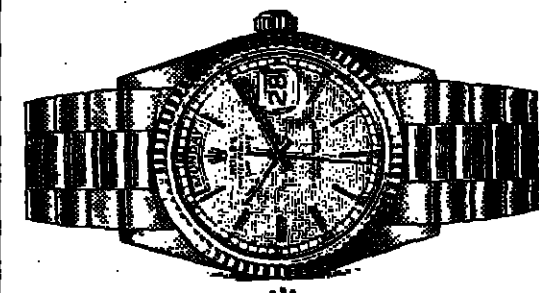
programme: "Tony Blair's facade is cracking... imagine what it would be like if this crew were behind Tony Blair with his majority in Government."

Mr Heseltine told the Independent: "To achieve the support of these people, he would have to introduce more overtly left-wing policies than he is now prepared to admit."

Asked whether left-wing revolt might force Mr Blair, as Prime Minister, to seek the support of the Liberal Democrats, Mr Heseltine said: "The left-wing would not tolerate that. The party would split."

Earlier, still reeling under the latest broadside from within the

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*Watch shown available in 18ct. yellow gold priced £9,900, white gold £10,500 and platinum £16,900.

QUICKLY
Beef cull crisis
The European Commission suggested it might be necessary to slaughter even more British cows, rather than fewer as suggested by British farmers, in order to eliminate BSE. A spokesman said EU experts might recommend introduction of a "wider, more selective cull". Page 6

Loyalist rift widens
The Protestant paramilitary death threat against Portadown loyalist Billy Wright developed into a political controversy which could have far-reaching effects on the future of the Northern Ireland talks process. Page 4

Rugby in turmoil
First and Second Division Rugby Union clubs have decided to break away from the Rugby Football Union, in response to a series of disputes within the governing body. The move has plunged the English game into renewed turmoil, with grave implications. Page 24

Discovery of Robert Bruce casket goes to history's heart

MATTHEW BRACE

There was a buzz of patriotic excitement in the Borders last night after Scottish archaeologists announced that they had unearthed a casket containing what many Scots believe is the real Braveheart.

During excavations at the ruins of Melrose Abbey yesterday, archaeologists found a modern casket which they believe contains another, much older, casket holding the heart of Robert the Bruce.

A spokesman for Historic Scotland, the government body which commissioned the excavation, said the casket was unearthed yesterday at a depth of between 18-24 inches.

Great secrecy surrounded the location of the casket, which

casket, it will be reburied at Melrose Abbey.

A spokesman for Historic Scotland, Pat Conner, said yesterday: "We know from history what this ancient casket looks like because it was dug up in the 1920s, so we won't have to open it to check."

"The heart - if it is in there - might be completely withered away and we have a strict policy on dealing with human remains. So we will confirm the casket is the one we think it is and then rebury the remains at Melrose. Obviously, the casket is of tremendous significance to Scottish history - it would be the heart of one of Scotland's greatest monarchs."

It was Robert the Bruce's final request to his good friend, Sir James Douglas, that his

heart be carried on the Crusades to Jerusalem and brought back to be buried at Melrose Abbey.

Sir James fell fighting the Moors in Spain and, according to legend, hurled the casket at the enemy as his last act.

The casket was recovered and buried at Melrose, but the bones of Robert the Bruce were buried at Dunfermline.

Bruce became King of Scotland in 1306 and led the forces that won freedom from England in 1328 under the Treaty of Northampton. His doggedness is said by legend to have been inspired by watching a spider weave its web.

The main aim of the excavations at the abbey was to unearth the chapter house and locate the first church on the site.

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news

Howard warned of jail turmoil

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES
Legal Affairs Editor

There were warnings of tension in jails last night after the High Court threw out a prisoner's challenge to Michael Howard's decision to suspend the controversial early release scheme.

The fears by penal groups — and renewed political fall-out — came with the confirmation that the Home Secretary had been advised that he had no legal right to recall the 537 prisoners wrongly freed early under the guidance from Richard Tilt, head of the Prison Service.

Speaking after a judicial review brought by John Naughton, an inmate at Lindholme jail, Doncaster, was rejected by two judges, Paul Cavadino, chair of the Penal Affairs Consortium, said: "If this decision is not overturned on appeal, it is bound to increase tension in prisons. Prisoners who have been expecting early release but do not get it will feel angry and resentful. They will feel especially frustrated because over 500 fellow prisoners in the same position were released before the Home Secretary's intervention, and this is

bound to seem particularly unfair."

Mr Howard was hoping that the court ruling would draw a line under the early release fiasco. But his lack of power, according to legal advice, to require the 537 to return to jail served only to reinforce the ineptitude of the past week.

Jack Straw, the shadow Home Secretary, said: "This is a common-sense ruling which raises even more questions about how this dreadful shambles began in the first place. Subject to an appeal, the decision means that more than 500

prisoners have been released into the community before serving their sentences in full. The public will not lightly forgive Michael Howard and the Tory government for such irresponsible bungling."

Lord Justice Simon Brown said the court's reasons for refusing Naughton's application would be given next week. But the other judge, Mr Justice Poplewell, made clear that he thought the new instruction to prison governors to take into account time spent on remand in custody for each consecutive sentence was "an absurdity"

which could not have been intended by Parliament. "Common sense is still part of the common law, isn't it?" he demanded of Naughton's counsel.

Mr Justice Poplewell said that under the guidelines a man who spent a year remanded in custody and was then sentenced to a year's jail for each of 10 offences consecutively would be released immediately, whereas an accomplice who was given bail would face 10 years inside.

A Prison Service spokeswoman said governors and their staff would explain to prisoners

that the law had now been clarified and that early release could no longer be expected. Contingency plans to deal with unrest would be activated in the event of any protests, she added.

Naughton had argued that he should have been released on 24 December last year and was entitled to compensation of up to £95 a day. He must now spend another month in jail after being sentenced to two 18-month consecutive sentences in 1995. A similar application by another prisoner, Sean Smith, was also dismissed.

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

Scotland Yard is to use undercover detectives to target suspected "bent" police officers in an anti-corruption initiative announced yesterday. The move was outlined in the Metropolitan Police's strategy into the next millennium, which also stated that the role of bobbies on the beat would become a "specialist" function to recognise its importance. Traffic wardens were identified as a group that could provide a more useful "patrol" function in future.

But concern that some corrupt officers could be escaping detection will lead to a re-organisation of the complaints procedures and the introduction of more "pro-active" investigations. This will include officers using covert methods, including phone taps, against suspects and obtaining tip offs from underworld informers. *Jason Bennett*

Peter Davis, the National Lottery regulator, has come under fire for failing to carry out certain checks on Camelot. In a report, the National Audit Office expressed concern about Mr Davis's role in monitoring and regulation. It identifies several areas where it claims he could do more to protect consumers and improve financial scrutiny of Camelot.

NAO investigators also highlighted £6m worth of interest made by Camelot on money that should have been paid out in prizes but has not been claimed. The report follows a highly critical study by the influential Commons Public Accounts Committee last month which accused Mr Davis of making "serious errors of judgement" by accepting free flights from an American company with a large stake in running the game.

Postal workers are on strike today after marathon peace talks failed to produce a breakthrough to the long-running mail dispute. Leaders of the Communication Workers' Union decided that 150,000 sorting office and delivery workers would go on strike from 1am, followed by another walkout on Monday.

The union's executive will meet tomorrow to decide their next move and could trigger a three-month suspension of the Royal Mail's monopoly on delivering letters if they call further strikes.

The number of people killed or fatally injured in road accidents in England last year dropped by 38 per cent, to 41,676, compared to the 1981-85 average, but the number of slight injuries increased by 8 per cent, according to official statistics published yesterday.

In total, there were 273,373 people injured in road accidents, a decrease of 1.5 per cent since 1994. The number of casualties fell in the majority of regions, with the exception of the North East and South West. In 1987 the Government announced that it aimed to reduce road casualties by a third by the year 2000. That target was exceeded for both deaths and serious injuries two years ago. *Clare Garner*

The judicial inquiry into abuse of children in care in North Wales will hold its first meeting next month. Its chairman, Sir Ronald Waterhouse, will outline the procedures to be adopted, including the issue of the cost of legal representation of any witnesses.

The tribunal, whose two other members are expected to be appointed soon, will start hearing evidence in January about the abuse of children in care in Cwyl and Gwynedd since 1974 and will look at whether those authorities and agencies responsible for care could have detected the abuse earlier. *Roger Dobson*

One in 10 young people experiences a psychiatric or psychological problem which lasts for at least a year, according to the Consumers' Association. The number rises as high as one in four in inner cities, and increasing numbers of children are diagnosed as suffering from severe depression. Doctors now estimate that around 2 per cent of schoolchildren and 5 per cent of adolescents suffer from depression.

Stress can affect a child's psychological, emotional and even physical development, says the *Which? Guide to Managing Stress*. *Glenda Cooper*

A nun who was forced to leave her job as a primary school head teacher by her parish priest, who was also chairman of the school governors, has won an industrial tribunal action. Sister Clotilde Stephens had argued at a hearing in Kent that she had to resign from St Bartholomew's Roman Catholic Primary School in Swanley after being stripped of her powers.

She told the tribunal that she had returned from holiday last summer to find that a secret meeting of governors had barred her from buying books and equipment. Valerie Cooney, chairman of the tribunal, said: "Such restrictions would have been a withdrawal of budgetary powers given to the applicant and would have disabled her from carrying out some of her duties as set out in the terms and conditions of her employment." *Fran Abrams*

Doctors warned pregnant women to avoid peanuts to safeguard their babies from a potentially life-threatening allergy. Exposure in the womb or via breast-milk to proteins derived from peanuts may be partly responsible for the fact that more children are developing peanut allergies at an earlier age than ever before.

Dr Jonathan Hourihane, a clinical research fellow at Southampton General Hospital, and co-author of a study in tomorrow's issue of the *British Medical Journal*, said that the evidence was circumstantial but sufficiently strong to advise pregnant mothers — particularly those who suffer allergies, or whose partners and other children have allergies like hayfever, asthma, eczema — to stop eating peanuts. *Liz Hunt*

The number of over-85s in England and Wales has reached record levels. Confirmation of the "growing" of the population is revealed in official statistics which show there are 948,000 over-85s — a 17 per cent increase between 1991 and 1995. This is particularly marked when compared with the rise in the number of pensioners over the same period.

Elsewhere the official figures highlights a marked fall in the population aged 16-29. This stands at 9.9 million — down 928,000 (8.5 per cent) from four years ago. Overall, the population has risen by just 1.4 per cent over the period to 51.8 million and has stayed almost static between 1994 and 1995.

Correction: An article on 20 August wrongly stated that charity UNICEF was among 16 people charged in 1988 with paedophile-related activities. Although Mr Verbeek was found guilty, separately, of protecting one of the 16, and received a two-year suspended sentence, he was later acquitted on appeal.

Research chief regrets taking tobacco cash

NICHOLAS TIMMINS
Public Policy Editor

The head of a Medical Research Council unit who accepted £147,000 of tobacco money towards a research project on nicotine said yesterday that he regretted the decision and would not do it again.

But Professor Jim Edwars, director of the MRC's Neurochemical Pathology Unit in Newcastle upon Tyne, said the £49,000 a year from British American Tobacco, towards a study costing £200,000 a year, had been made under an "absolutely watertight" contract which ironically provided far greater control over publication of the results than if the MRC had funded the research itself.

"We specifically have a gagging clause which says they cannot refer to the results of the research for any promotional purpose without our written permission — which of course we wouldn't give. If the work had been funded solely from MRC funds then BAT would have been free to make whatever use they wanted of the results."

None the less, Professor Edwars said, he regretted his

decision two years ago to accept the cash. He had taken it because the unit had faced an unexpected cut in pharmaceutical industry funding which raised the prospect of cuts in the study of the health effects of nicotine.

Since then, he said, "the distrust associated with money from this source has grown. Feelings about this are obviously held much more strongly than I had appreciated." A number of university research centres had accepted tobacco cash, he said, and the fact that there were precedents "affected my thinking at the time".

His greatest regret, he said, was that questions about the impartiality of the MRC had been raised when the council "has to be, and absolutely has to be seen to be, impartial." Professor Edwars, like the MRC, is adamant that BAT's contribution has no bearing on the conduct of the science which the council would have funded anyway had it had the cash.

Professor Edwars dismissed as "nonsense" the idea that the outcome of the research would be "a gift for the tobacco industry".



Outward bound: Liam Gallagher at Heathrow yesterday flying off to join the Oasis tour of the US

Liam looks forward and takes off

The Oasis singer Liam Gallagher flew to Chicago to rejoin the band yesterday, hoping his brother Noel's view of his dramatic walk-out would be "Don't Look Back In Anger".

Liam, 23, was without his fiancée, Patsy Kensit, but she was due to join the band's 14-date American tour later.

The laryngitis which stopped the star singing has cleared up and he will return to fronting

the band in Michigan today. Despite the brothers' famously volatile relationship, Liam seemed confident he would be welcomed with open arms after speaking to Noel on the telephone.

"Me and Noel are all right. He can't wait to see me," he said as he left Miss Kensit's home in north London.

Confronted by the press at Heathrow yesterday, he re-

sponded with his customary obscenities.

"I hate you f***g lot, yet you're always asking me too many things. I'm not a super-model you know," he said.

Earlier he had defended his walk-out. "It's not petulant. To tell you the truth thousands of fans can wait," he said. "I wasn't happy, I didn't have anywhere to live. I just had to come back and do a bit of

packing like you do when you have got a house and you have got to move."

Miss Kensit was not to blame, he insisted. "It wasn't Patsy's fault. She loves me being in a band," he said.

Noel said he would not "give Liam a slap". "We have had enough of slapping each other. You have to support people when they are going through a personal crisis," he said.

Jet hijack pilot praises his 'perfect' British rescue

STEVE BOGGAN

The pilot of the hijacked Sudan Airways jet spoke for the first time yesterday of the moment his aircraft was taken and of the "perfection" of the British operation to free it.

Captain Abdel Hamid Hidirbi, 51, said he was staggered by the professionalism of police and aviation officials on the ground, adding: "I thought perfection only existed in books."

Capt Hidirbi's comments were echoed by the Prime Minister, John Major, who sent his congratulations to Essex police for the way they handled the situation after the plane touched down at Stansted airport early on Tuesday.

Capt Hidirbi, a British-trained pilot with Sudan Airways since 1969, was speaking after almost 24 hours of police interviews during which he told detectives about every detail of the 20-hour hijack ordeal which ended shortly after 1pm on Tuesday.

He appeared relaxed yesterday alongside Detective Chief Inspector Win Bernard, the police negotiator with whom he had liaised for nine and a half



Mutual admiration: Win Bernard (left) and Capt Hidirbi

hours by radio while the 184 hostages were allowed to leave the aircraft.

Hostages and crew of the Airbus 310 have been forbidden by police from discussing details of the hijack for fear of prejudicing future criminal proceedings against the seven Iraqi hijackers, but Capt Hidirbi described how the incident started and how passengers reacted.

"At first I heard a loud noise — shouting and high voices from the back of the plane and later I was advised as to what it was," he said. "I ordered my crew and the passengers to sit down. All

your training tells you to remain calm, cool down the situation and gain the trust of the hijackers to gain time and get their confidence."

"I did not have time to fear for myself. I had enough to worry about over the number of sick people on the plane who were on their way to Amman for medical treatment, and for the children and women on board. But I am not a hero. I'm just an ordinary pilot."

Asked about the role played by Ch Insp Bernard, the captain said: "He is a credit to your country and the aviation busi-

ness, well experienced and well trained."

In return, Ch Insp Bernard said Capt Hidirbi was a "very brave man" who had quickly turned into a member of the negotiating team.

The men who took control of SUD 150 were still in police custody yesterday, although an extension to a detention order granted by magistrates on Wednesday was due to run out at midnight last night. Police said yesterday that no decision had been made over whether to charge the men or apply for another extension.

Six Iraqi women and two children, relatives of the hijackers, were released from police custody and handed over to Immigration Department officials, although the Home Office would not say yesterday whether any had applied for political asylum.

A number of Jordanian hostages, numbering between 15 and 29, according to police, flew out of Heathrow on Wednesday. The rest of the hostages, Sudanese, Syrians, Palestinians and Saudis, were due to leave Stansted last night on board the hijacked jet, with Capt Hidirbi at the controls.

How a fertility drug goes to work on an egg.

In this week's Radio Times read Mark Porter's non-sensational, authoritative and informative article on fertility treatment.

RadioTimes

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT.

مركز الامم المتحدة

When success is in their genes

Cricketing triumph of Beefy's boy shows how talent breeds talent. Report by **Rebecca Fowler**



The family talent show: Vanessa Redgrave and daughter Joely Richardson (main picture) continue a grand tradition, exemplified elsewhere in families ranging from Liam and Ian Botham, left, Muriel Wilde and her daughter Kim, Damon Hill and his son Graham – apparently destined to continue the tradition – and Dame Maggie Smith and her son Toby Stephens. Copyright: Alpha

EVEN when he was playing ball in the garden as a small boy, his father would never let him win.

Ian Botham's lack of compromise with his son apparently paid off this week as Liam, 19, made a stunning debut for Hampshire and joined the gallery of anointed offspring following in the footsteps of famous parents.

The "like father, like son" Bothams have emerged as the latest example of how extraordinary aptitude can be passed from one generation to the next, creating talent dynasties in sports, arts, music, and academia. So far it is also among the happiest images of filial bonds bringing out the best.

"Beefy's boy", as Liam has been dubbed, showed from

an early age that he shared the sporting aptitude of his father, excelling at all games, including rugby and football, according to his family.

He also displayed his father's fierce competitive spirit.

When Liam won his first plaudits at Hampshire he said: "I learned to compete from about the age of nine or 10. Everything I took Dad on at was for real, whether it was Monopoly, poker, snooker, fishing or golf. We both wanted to win. Bothams don't come second."

Others who have succeeded at the parental calling include Damon Hill, the racing driver whose father Graham was a world champion and Vanessa Redgrave, whose daughters Joely and Natasha have both followed her on to the stage.

Toby Stephens, the rising Shakespearean star is the son of Dame Maggie Smith and the late Sir Robert Stephens, and Sir Rocco Forte took over the family hotel empire from his father Lord (Charles) Forte; Dominic Lawson edited the *Spectator* in the footsteps of Nigel Lawson while Kim Wilde

achieved fame as a pop star, as her father Marty Wilde had done.

The experts suggest that for the most part the offspring of the famous stand a much better chance of succeeding, particularly in areas such as sport and music, as well as in

intellectual pursuits which flourish with a combination of good genes and a supportive environment.

Dr Petruska Clarkson, a consultant psychologist, said: "There's quite a simple equation: the genetic endowment will set the ceiling and the environment will determine

their children live up to them."

The late Graham Hill took the cautious approach with his son.

He warned: "I can't believe that any parents want their son to go steaming into motor racing. Damon is far too intelligent for that."

But Damon, when given the

chance to follow in his father's wheel tracks, cited him as the greatest force behind his own phenomenal success.

"He was my inspiration, and my guiding light was seeing how he made it from nothing," Damon said. "He never had help from anyone,

but he got where he wanted to go."

However, there have been almost as many casualties as successes among the children of the famous, especially in Hollywood.

Marlon Brando's son Christian served five years for murder, and his daughter

light pall must also be a burden. Sir Rocco Forte failed to

beat off an aggressive Granada buy-out earlier this year, and held a party afterwards in the Cafe Royal where his father once had his private offices when he still commanded the chain he had created.

Generally, the sons and daughters of the talent dynasties of Britain are stoical about their position.

Richard Olivier, son of the Late Lord Olivier, who directed his sisters and Joan Plowright, his mother, in the West End, said at the outset of his career: "There is no way I would make out that the burden of the name has been greater than the opportunity of being an apprentice at the feet of the masters."

His father also gave Toby

Stephens the first test of his mettle when at 15 he was taken to Lord Olivier's for tea by his stepfather.

He recalled: "He asked my stepdad if I wanted to be an actor, and his response as he looked at me was, 'You know what they say: It always misses a generation.' I was crushed."

For the Bothams at least there was some good old-fashioned family pride yesterday.

Marie Botham, Liam's grandmother, said: "His father is very proud. He was the first person to ring me and tell me to look at the result on Tele-text. When it's in the family people tend to expect it. It's always been the same for Liam, but we are all really proud of him."

Offspring of the famous have the best chance in areas needing a combination of good genes and a supportive environment

The model agencies say one of these girls is the proper shape and the other is too fat. Are they right?



Vital statistics: Julie Stanton (left) weighs 4½ stone; 15 years ago she was seeking help from an eating disorders clinic but was persuaded by an agency she had a future as a model. Lucy Stanley (right) was dismissed as too fat

LIZ HUNT
Health Editor

A concave chest, pin-thin arms, and jutting hip bones can propel a teenager to catwalk stardom - or straight into hospital with a feeding tube down her nose. Model agencies are once again in the dock amid claims that an eating disorder is an advantage for young girls hungry for the fame and fortune that life as a clothes horse can bring.

The line that divides teenagers with a physique envied by millions of women from that of the anorexic is increasingly blurred, despite agencies' protests that they employ only healthy girls with normal appetites who are thin because they exercise a lot.

Jo Fonseca, director of Models 1, said: "Models have to be slim. I can think of nothing worse than being fat. The only reason that thin girls look so unusual at the moment is because there are so many fat people."

Anecdotal evidence suggests otherwise. Lynda Thompson,

18-years-old, 5ft 9in and weighing in at just 6½ stone, was in the first throes of anorexia when she was stopped by a scout for a leading agency and asked if she wanted to be a model. "She said I had a perfect figure and walked beautifully, so I was just right for the catwalk," Ms Thompson said. "For the past year my family and friends had been telling me I looked awful and needed medical help... It was so confusing. I thought 'I can't be too thin if an agent thinks I'm good enough to be a model'. So I continued to starve myself." Six months later she was dangerously ill in hospital.

Amy Davies, who worked for a top agency, allowed herself just 400 calories a day in order to maintain her 34-24-35 figure. "Sticking to the statistics on my modelling card was becoming a real struggle. I'd go to casting or shoots and... people would say to me 'you're a big one aren't you'," she said.

In a third case detailed in the October issue of *Company* mag-

azine, 17-year-old Lucy Stanley, 5ft 8in and under 9½ stone, was told by an agency to come back only after she had lost two stone. Ironically, two years ago Lucy had been two stone lighter; she was fighting anorexia and bulimia. "My cheeks were hollow, my eyes had sunk into my face and my skin was terrible, but then the agencies would



Company investigates the 'crave for superwaifs'

have wanted me," she said.

A leading fashion photographer told the magazine that "superwaifs" often faint because they are starving. "One model I was working with collapsed in a heap during a shoot. We tried to get her to eat something but all she'd have was rice cakes." The leading agencies all deny knowingly hiring anorexics, or encouraging slimming to dangerously low weights. But Kelly Penford of Boss Models admits that if an agency looks after 300 girls, some do have eating disorders. "But we work very closely with dietitians and nutritionists and we get worried about girls if they lose too much weight," she said.

Dr Dee Dawson, an eating disorder specialist and founder of the Rhodes Farm clinic in north London, is adamant that many models are anorexic because it makes them more successful. "What these model agencies is doing is irresponsible. They don't care about the damage they're doing to these girls."

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news

King Rat ultimatum puts peace to test

DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland correspondent

The Protestant paramilitary death threat against a leading Portadown loyalist yesterday developed into a political controversy which could have far-reaching effects on the Northern Ireland talks process.

Former Ulster Volunteer Force prisoner Billy Wright, 36, yesterday maintained that he

intended to defy the "directive" from all three major loyalist paramilitary organisations to leave Northern Ireland by midnight on Saturday.

A statement from the "Combined Loyalist Military Command" on Wednesday warned him that failure to leave would result in "summary justice". But he responded: "I suppose if they don't move, their words are empty, but I think they will

find it very hard to justify to the unionist people, and even their own members, for what this is - a form of fascism."

His refusal to leave means that the issue has turned into a major test of the authority of the three main groups - the UVF, Ulster Defence Association and Red Hand Commandos - within the loyalist underworld. It could also develop into a test of the state of extreme Protestant

opinion, as the paramilitary leaderships favour maintaining their ceasefire while Mr Wright favours ending it.

The affair reached into the political arena yesterday when the two main Unionist parties, David Trimble's Ulster Unionists and the Reverend Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists, opened a campaign to have the two smaller loyalist parties excluded from the multi-party

talks due to resume in Belfast next month.

The smaller parties, the Progressive Unionists and the Ulster Democratic party, have close links with the UVF and UDA, and are regarded by many as in effect the political wings of the two paramilitary groups. The mainstream unionist complaint is that the two parties should not be allowed to remain at the table while their

parent organisations are issuing public death threats.

PUP spokesman David Irvine made clear in a series of media interviews that he did not approve of the "directive" to Mr Wright, but he resisted pressure to issue an outright condemnation of the move. Saying he was "not in the business of the politics of condemnation," he added: "The word 'condemnation' if you want me to use it,

I won't use it. I simply won't use it for one reason because it doesn't work, it hasn't saved a single life in Northern Ireland."

DUP deputy leader Peter Robinson yesterday wrote to the Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, urging him to suspend the PUP and UDP from the talks process. He declared: "Somebody who goes around threatening to kill people if they don't get out of the

country is hardly behaving as one is expected to within a democracy."

Ulster Unionist party deputy leader, John Taylor, said the PUP must condemn the threat to Mr Wright. "When the UVF and other paramilitaries are threatening murder of a loyalist, we are asking the PUP to condemn it. If the PUP do not, they would leave themselves in the same position as Sinn Féin."



Under threat: a pensive Billy Wright yesterday and, right, after a 1994 car bomb attack Photographs: Pacemaker

As Ulster's hard man ponders his future, his past is set to haunt him

DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland correspondent

Billy Wright, known as King Rat, is a child of the troubles. Born in 1960, he was 15 years old when one of the key, formative events of his life took place not far from where he lived in South Armagh.

The Whitecross massacre,

On a January night in 1976, a gang of IRA gunmen stopped a busload of workmen, weeded out the Catholics, and opened fire on the Protestants. Ten men were killed.

Republicans argued that the incident was an attempt to shock loyalists into ending a wave of attacks on Catholics in the county. If so, it could

hardly have been more counter-productive, for it led to the young Wright joining the Ulster Volunteer Force: the Catholic community has paid heavily ever since.

Wright has had two spells in prison and gone through a religious phase as a lay preacher. But during much of the 1980s and 1990s he built his

militant reputation. He has become the latest in a long line of paramilitants who become larger-than-life public figures of great notoriety, attracting publicity, fascination, fear and hatred in great measure.

Such people often end up dead or in prison, for they become marked men: Johnny "Mad Dog" Adair, of the Ulster

Defence Association, has been jailed for 17 years; Jim Craig of the same organisation was killed by his own men; Dessie O'Hare, of the Irish National Liberation Army, has been put behind bars for 40 years; loyalist John McKeague was killed by republicans.

One of the factors which propelled Wright to his current notoriety was the journalistic invention of his nickname "King Rat".

Using it meant that local newspapers felt free to write about this figure, building him up to almost mythical proportions. Wright was not usually named, but everyone knew that King Rat was Billy Wright, and the stream of publicity built up his image.

His militancy increased as three relatives - his father-in-law, brother-in-law and an uncle - were killed by the IRA. He has lived most of his life in the town of Portadown, scene of this

summer's Drumcree stand-off and known as one of Northern Ireland's most bitter towns and the centre of one of its most violent areas.

The early 1990s brought an upsurge of loyalist violence around Portadown, with Wright as a prime suspect for many of the killings. He is known as a cold and clever man who gives

nothing away under police interrogation. As his reputation grew, the IRA made several attempts to kill him, but he has turned his house into a well-protected fortress and is careful about where he goes and sleeps.

When the loyalist organisations declared their ceasefire in October 1994, two months after the IRA cessation, Wright

at first supported the move. But within months he became restless with inactivity and was increasingly critical of the UVF leadership.

The organisation's Belfast chiefs have maintained their ceasefire even after the collapse of the IRA's, and have furthermore taken a political line more moderate than that of the main-

stream Protestant parties, such as David Trimble's Ulster Unionists. This has clearly not been to Wright's liking.

He received a wave of publicity when he and his associates featured prominently at Drumcree, then later figured again in the news when it emerged that he had met Mr Trimble during the stand-off. Mr Trimble has said he asked Wright to use his

influence to keep things calm. It is reported that a close associate of Wright's was ready to drive a mechanical digger at the Drumcree obstacles and into the RUC lines.

It did not happen, but some miles away a Catholic man was shot dead in an attack which is believed to be the work of the UVF. Wright and some associates were questioned about the killing by police but released without charge.

The murder was regarded by the UVF leaders as a flagrant breach of the loyalist ceasefire and led to the announcement at the start of this month that its mid-Ulster unit was being disbanded.

When it became evident that the unit would not meekly accept this, the death threat was issued against Wright, making it clear that his celebrity would not prevent the organisation from using violence against him.

'Billy has made the IRA pay dearly for the Whitecross massacre'

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DAVID L. R.

THE SUNDAY REVIEW

When a class of v
doubting too much
IN THIS WE

edited by David Lister

'Why I hate this bunch of fizzy-water, arty-farty folk who run Edinburgh'

First Person

The promoter Gerry Cottle (right) is a very angry man. His latest show, *The Circus of Horrors*, is a veritable hit – but the Fringe's haughty habitués disagree



with *The Circus of Horrors*, and Gerry Cottle has every reason to be a very angry man.

But what is so galling is that the UK media has virtually nothing to say about a show which has attracted such international and popular acclaim. Instead, they talk of a Festival without life, invention or novelty.

Meanwhile, the bar-room hang-outs of the Edinburgh habitués resound to the sound of bitchily dismissive critiques of a "sizzly" circus which markets itself with an aggressive sense of street-sass, and which wins popular support by the barrel-load, but scores "nil points" in Edinburgh's teeming enclaves of fay, androgynous arty-farty folk.

Perhaps circus is only sexy if it's foreign? Perhaps it's less effort to file that "Fringe is boring" story instead of searching out excitement? Perhaps expense accounts have been cut back this year and the press can't afford the taxi fare to Leith Links?

Or, perhaps, the folk who hand out awards on behalf of a French carbonated-water company haven't the strength of character to take a look at some of the more interesting artistic endeavours which this festival is able to offer.



Golden boy: John Phillips being made up by Amy McFee for the Houston Grand Opera production of *Four Saints in Three Acts*, directed by Robert Wilson, which opens tonight at the Playhouse in Edinburgh. Photograph: Geraint Lewis

According to the developing critical consensus, conceived in the comfort of favoured media hang-outs such as the Assembly Rooms and Pleasance Theatre bars, there's nothing innovative, interesting or original on the Fringe this year.

Everybody is entitled to an opinion, of course, but as a promoter with long years in the business I sometimes wonder whether there are three parallel Fringe festivals – one attended by critics, one occupied by an élite circle of performers, glitterati, cognoscenti and their camp followers, and the other attended by punters.

The critics have written Edinburgh '96 off. The élites, on the other hand, are busy polishing up their solo acts with the aim of netting that coveted Perrier Award, whilst throwing up impenetrable barbed-wire barricades to ensure that success – in the shape of critical plaudits and transition from stage to television – is something shared unequally amongst their own self-selecting membership.

The idea of success being measured by popular acclaim... the thought of success coming in the shape of some kind of ensemble show... or the concept of success being generated outside the environs of the made-for-television Edinburgh

comedy spectacle... all these notions are wildest fantasy for that strangest of Caledonian clans, that tight-knit bunch of fizzy-water awards-folk.

But, this year, the punters are flocking to see *The Circus of Horrors* – which we're staging on Leith Links.

As a company, we've invested a considerable amount of money and more than a year of creative effort in developing this project. We've brought on board some of the best acts in Britain, and allied them to the inventive genius of Pierrot Bidon, the man who conceived and directed the ground-breaking French chainsaw circus *Archaos*.

We've created something new, energetic, entertaining,

exciting and dynamic; we've brought it 400 miles to Edinburgh to showcase it, and, as a result, we're now turning away over 100 people per night.

The Circus of Horrors scored a top-rating 9 out of 10 and was voted "the show to see" in a public poll presented on television last weekend. America's CNN crew came for 10 minutes, stayed for two hours and described it as "the only really exciting and eccentric show" that they had covered.

And, following visits by agents from around the world, we're now actively negotiating to present the circus at Arts Festivals in Germany, Holland, France, New Zealand and Australia.

So you could say all's well

Magpie may fly again to restore TV innocence

DAVID LISTER

ITV is planning to launch a "traditional" children's show to compete with *Blue Peter*. The 30-minute programme will be launched next autumn and will have up to three presenters.

Network executives are about to commission the magazine-type show but will not reveal who is in line to host it. It will be broadcast once a week in the 4.40-5.10pm slot. *Blue Peter*, which is on three times a week, starts at 5.10pm.

Both ITV and BBC have been giving thought to the future of children's programming. At a recent seminar involving teachers, psychologists and children as well as broadcasters, the head of the National Association of Head Teachers denounced the tone of much of children's television as "patronising".

And at the same seminar Dr Arie Sigman, a psychologist, said there was a need for older presenters. "There's an awful lot of



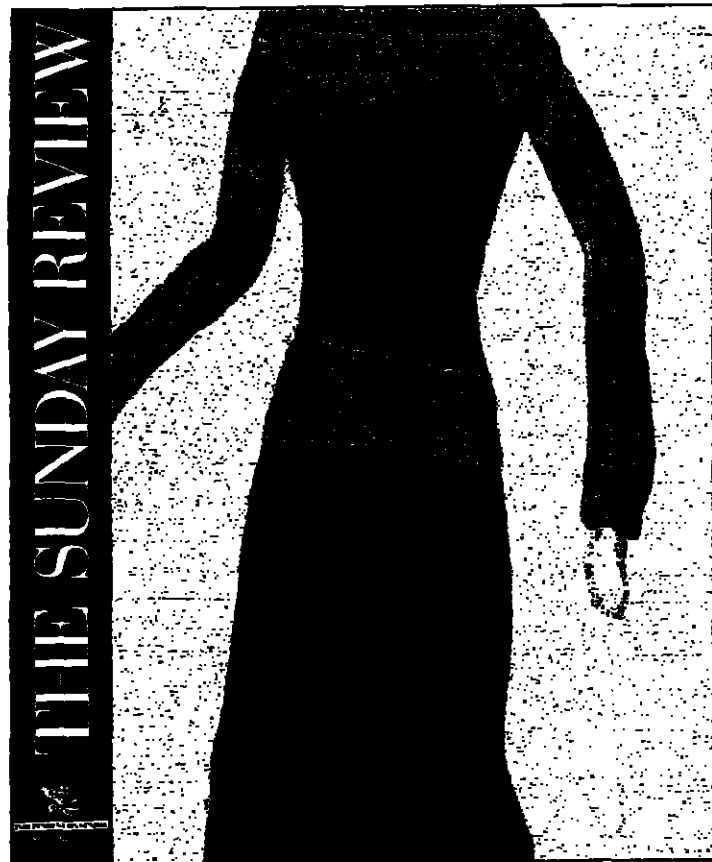
Jenny Hanley: Looking back to the future. Photograph: PA

slim, good-looking younger people," he said, "and a distinct lack of people who are middle-aged. We are creating a division for children, so that they may not be able to relate to people older than them and will use a distorted image as their reference."

For parents, the new ITV show is likely to bring back memories of *Magpie*, which ran for 12 years up to 1980. Pre-

senters included actress Jenny Hanley and DJ Tommy Boyd. Vanessa Chapman, ITV's Controller of Children's and Youth Programmes said: "We aim to capitalise on the traditional strengths that the children's schedule has with popular factual programmes."

"*Blue Peter* has been around for a long time but ITV has tended not to have that style of long-running show."



THE SUNDAY REVIEW

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When a glass of white wine becomes a bottle... why are so many women drinking too much? Plus: That's Entertainment! The theme food revolution

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news

Beef spectre returns to haunt farmers

TONY BARBER and
JOHN RENTOUL

The European Commission suggested yesterday that it might be necessary to slaughter even more British cows, rather than fewer as suggested by British farmers, in order to eliminate BSE.

A Commission spokesman, Gerard Kiely, said that European Union agricultural experts might recommend introduction of a "wider, more selective cull" in response to recent evidence that the disease can be passed from cows to their calves.

Pressure for a more thorough British slaughter of cows has been growing this month in several EU countries, despite the possibility that it will lead to yet another beef row, distracting the EU from other business. No EU officials share the professed belief of John Major, the Prime Minister, that the ban on British beef exports will be lifted by the end of this year.

Mr Kiely's remarks overshadowed a report by Oxford researchers which suggested that mad-cow disease would die out by 2001, regardless of how many cattle are slaughtered between now and then. British farmers seized on this report as proof that the Government should reduce its present planned cull of 120,000 cows, but Mr Kiely said such hopes were unrealistic.

Mr Major faces the threat of a new revolt from his Euro-sceptic MPs amid growing evi-



Low yield: Farmers watch cattle being sold at the market in Northallerton, Yorkshire, for around £150 less than before the beef crisis

Photograph: Tom Pilstor

dence that his "beef war" against the EU ban on British beef exports was fought in vain. Angela Browning, the Agriculture minister, yesterday sought to pacify Tory rebels who declared that, after new res-

earch, they would not support "needless" slaughter of cattle. Appearing to reverse previous signs that the Government might extend the cull in the light of evidence of mother-to-calf transmission of "mad-cow dis-

ease", she hinted that the Government might now seek to reduce the numbers culled, setting the Government on a fresh confrontation with Brussels. She told BBC radio: "We need to take stock quite urgently of

the implications of this new evidence." She was responding to John Biffen, the Tory former Cabinet minister, who said he would not support the Government's slaughter plans in a Commons

vote. "I wouldn't be prepared to use my vote to maintain the prospective cull, which is going to result in an enormous number of cattle, with no traces of BSE whatever, being put into the charnel house," he said.

Several Tory Euro-sceptics have said they would not back the slaughter policy, and last week Nicholas Budgen, MP for Wolverhampton SW, called for the policy of non-co-operation with the EU to be restored.

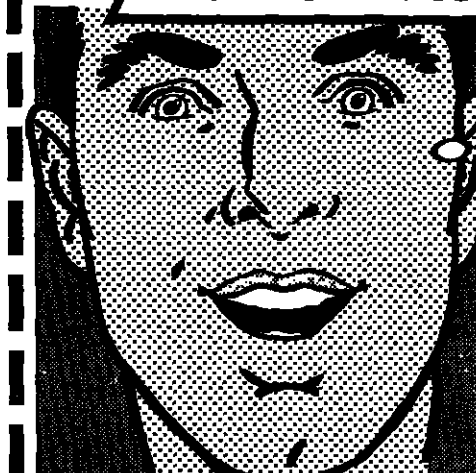
In June, Mr Major set November as his target for lifting most of the EU ban on British beef. This now looks impossible. And the "figleaf" negotiated by Mr Major at the Florence summit, which allowed him to lift the policy of non-co-operation, has produced no result. The declaration appended to the summit communiqué said that Britain would be allowed to export beef to non-EU countries if the Commission approved it, but since then no such exports have been applied for.

The cull of younger cattle was supposed to begin at the beginning of this month, but will now have to wait until Government and European Commission reconsider which animals should be selected - and for a Commons vote to approve it, which cannot take place until the House returns on 14 October. Labour and the Liberal Democrats both continue to refuse to support the Government's proposed slaughter of 127,000 cattle under the age of 30 months.

Mr Kiely said in Brussels that any proposal for a revised cull that involved eliminating fewer cases of BSE would be "very difficult to sell" to the EU's other 14 member-states. He pointed out that most EU governments see the BSE crisis not so much as a matter of how many cows to kill, but as a question of public confidence in eating beef.

"The issue is the protection of consumers' health and the eradication of BSE," he said.

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'It's an insult to see cattle given away'

STEPHEN GOODWIN

Market day used to be the high point of the week for Tony Flintoft who farms 800 feet up on the North York moors. He would take the beef cattle he had reared from birth down to Northallerton and stand in the auction ring as the product of a year or more's hard labour was judged by his fellow hill farmers and bid for by the meat traders. Then it was home with the cheque.

Last Tuesday, Mr Flintoft took two beef bulls from his farm on Snilesworth moor to Northallerton but did not wait to see them auctioned. "It's too disheartening to watch them given away. It's a bit of an insult really," he said. On average, he is losing £150 an animal - typical of the losses suffered by

per cent per kilo to break even.

Farmers at Northallerton felt they had been let down by politicians. "Dorrell should be hanged," said one. There is also bitterness that dairy farmers are getting hefty compensation payments while the beef men, who have seen comparatively few cases of BSE, have been "left to swing in the wind".

Mr Flintoft has a suckler herd of 100 cows and fattens up their calves - around the same number - in sheds over the winter. He also has 700 ewes on the moor. But the farm has to support three generations, and Mr Flintoft fears for the future unless prices recover.

"Without the beef job there's nowt," he said. His holding of rough grassland can be used for little else but cattle and sheep. Though lamb prices have increased, a big change in the balance is impractical. "I'd need another 4,000 ewes. It would kill the moor." Unlike Mr Flintoft, many hill farmers are unable to keep young cattle over the winter. Traditionally, calves born on hill farms are brought down to lowland farms who fatten or "finish" them. But the finishers are saying they will not buy calves unless prices are down by £150 to £200 a head.

Last week, Northumberland farmer Richard Thornton got £370 a head for calves which would have fetched £440 to £480 last year. Proud of the quality beef produced on the uplands, he eschewed talk of impending disaster. "Sales are a worry," Mr Thornton said, "but people will grit their teeth and try to ride out the storm."

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Compact golf course scores hole in one

A revolutionary 18-hole design for town centres could break down social barriers

CHRIS MOWBRAY

A quick 18 holes around a course with bunkers, streams, trees, lakes and 300-yard drives – all in the centre of town – could soon become a reality.

The golf court, the brainchild of non-golfing design engineer Farel Bradbury, is being launched by a London-based consortium as the way of pulling down the game's last social barriers and of making it available to everyone in a busy, overcrowded world.

By using only one main fairway, four greens and eight tee areas, a court can provide international standard 18-hole golf – including genuine par-five holes – on 13 acres of land, less than one-tenth of the area covered by a conventional course.

Golfers criss-cross the course playing all greens at least twice and some three times, but only three matches can be played at any one time.

If golfers do not mind playing only par-three holes, an 18-hole court can be built on as little as four acres.

Mr Bradbury, 64, built the world's first court on a six-and-a-half acre field behind his home in Rose-on-Wye, Herefordshire, after being advised by his physiotherapist to take up the game to cure paralysis caused by a stroke.

He used a computer to work out how to create a full-size course by driving the golf ball in different directions across the same fairway.

"I have not changed the game at all, but have just folded the playing lines of a standard 180-acre course back on themselves," said Mr Bradbury.

"It all started when I asked my local golf club professional about the feasibility of putting a golf hole in my paddock."

"He told me there was room for four, so I thought I would see if I could fit in a few more."

The concept has excited golfers all over the world. Golf Courts Incorporated, a consortium marketing the idea, has received inquiries from local authorities, hotels and an American architect who wants to build one on an apartment



Dream in one: Bradbury's revolutionary 6½-acre golf court Photograph: Bob Stratton

roof. A French builder is planning to site one in the middle of a new housing complex to be shared by the 30 residents, while several South African millionaires see them as private status symbols.

And the American basketball star Michael Jordan believes they could make golf available to black inner-city youngsters.

Because courts require only 5 per cent of the water used to irrigate a normal course, they are also attracting attention in places like the Middle East and Cyprus where there is a serious water shortage.

The consortium believes the courts will be especially popular in crowded countries like Japan where many golfers never get closer to the sport than a driving range.

They also ideal for the business person in a hurry, because an 18-hole game can be completed in three hours.

The venture has the support of the former Ryder Cup champion Christy O'Connor, who believes it will encourage more junior players to start at a younger age, and of Laura Davies, the world's leading woman player, who feels the reduced playing time will appeal to more women.

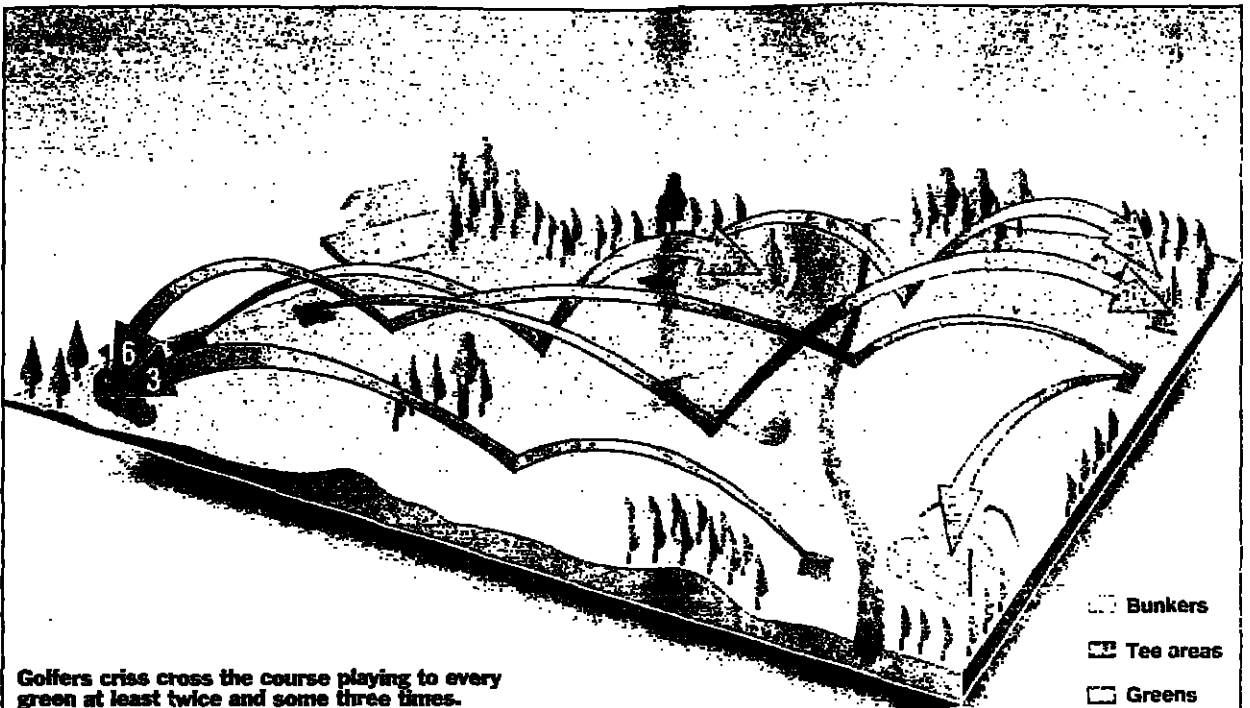
"Courts are cheap to maintain, cost £100,000 to £150,000 to design and construct compared with several million for a course, and even be floodlit for night-time golf," added Mr Bradbury, the consortium's design consultant.

"The possibilities are almost endless. "Because they are so small, they could be attached to retirement homes for the elderly, and they are ideal for the disabled who at present have

to reserve a course for the day when they want to play. "Golf is much more cosmopolitan than it used to be, and the golf court will make it even more so."

"I can see the day when it will be played on land at a motorway interchange by young

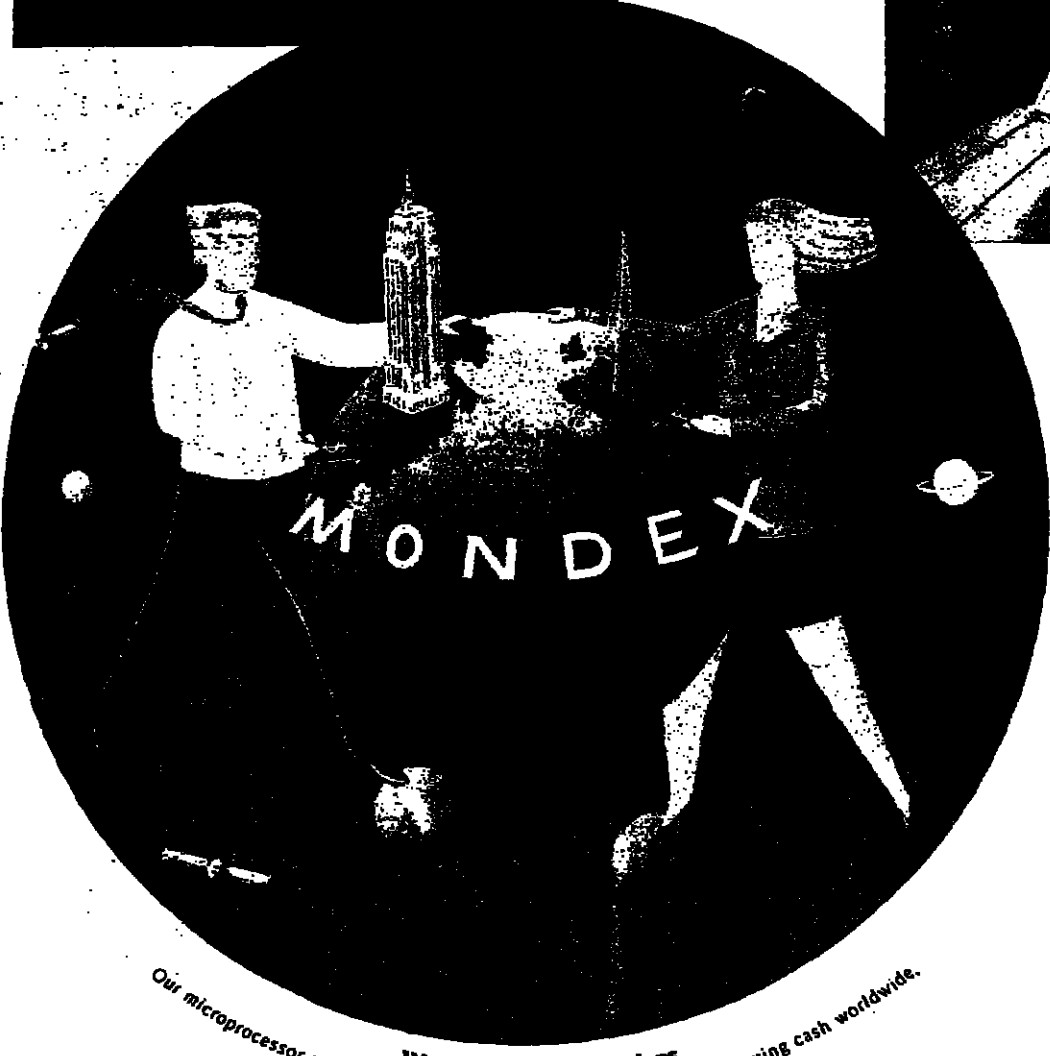
people wearing revolutionary Lurex sportswear." But what most appeals to him is the thought that, in 150 years from now, people will be greatly amused by the quaint way 20th-century sports people used to go on a six-mile rural hike just for a game of golf.



Golfers criss-cross the course playing to every green at least twice and some three times. Three matches can be played at any one time. The diagram shows six of the 18 holes.

Legend:
Bunkers
Tee areas
Greens
Graphic: Jim Pavlides

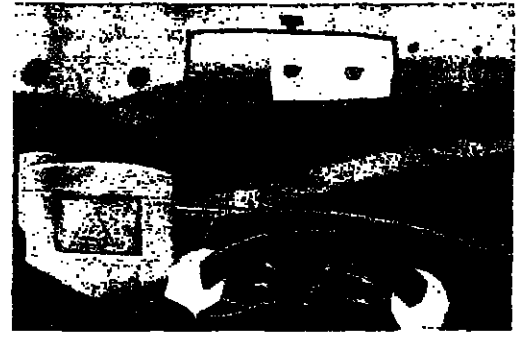
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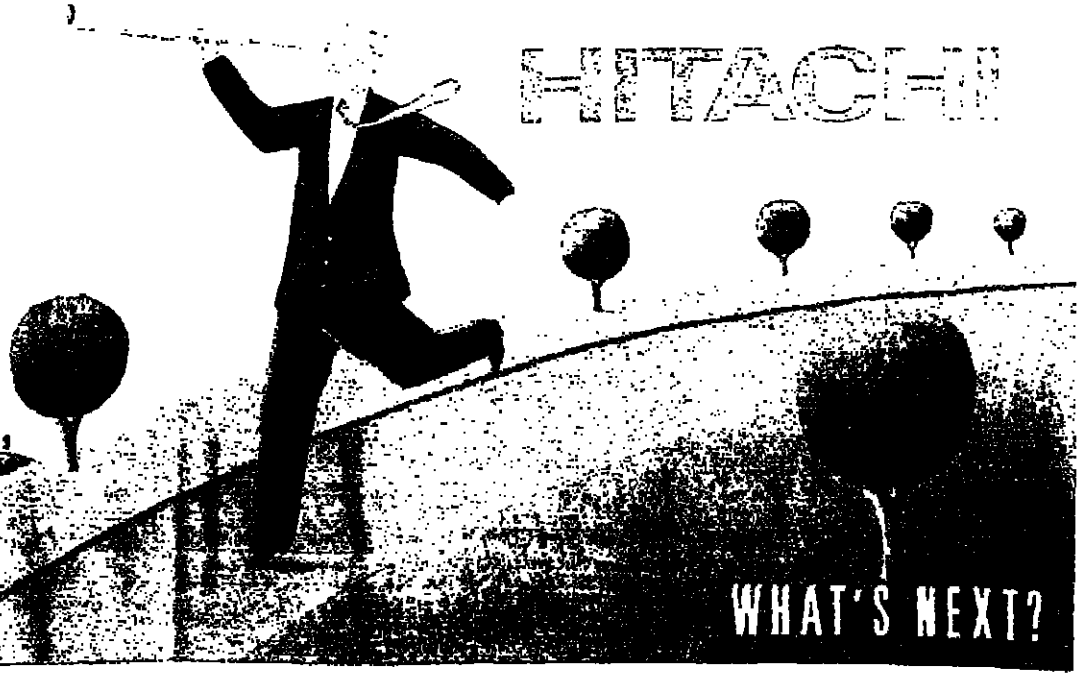
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DAILY POEM

And You, Helen

By Edward Thomas

And you, Helen, what should I give you?
So many things I would give you
Had I an infinite great store
Offered me and I stood before
To choose. I would give you youth,
All kinds of loveliness and truth,
A clear eye as good as mine,
Lands, waters, flowers, wine,
As many children as your heart
Might wish for, a far better art
Than mine can be, all you have lost
Upon the travelling waters tossed.
Or given to me, if I could choose
Freely in that great treasure-house
Anything from any shelf,
I would give you back yourself,
And power to discriminate
What you want and want it not too late,
Many fair days free from care
And heart to enjoy both foul and fair,
And myself, too, if I could find
Where it lay hidden and it proved kind.

Many years ago, when I was a medical student, I read a poem by Edward Thomas that immediately buttonholed me, writes Dannie Absie. It was addressed to the poet's wife, Helen. Later I learnt that it was written in the winter of 1916 while Thomas was at home on embarkation leave. He left this mature, honest love poem for Helen to read after he quit the house; he was never to return, for he was killed at Arras. I have included it, along with other favourite Thomas poems of mine, in *Poets' Poetry Please* (Radio 4) to be broadcast from the Edinburgh Festival at 5.30pm on Sunday, 1 September.

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Opening for New Poets

international

Clinton adviser in prostitute scandal

RUPERT CORNWELL
Chicago

Amid a sudden, hugely embarrassing scandal over a key adviser, President Bill Clinton last night formally launched the last election campaign of his life by setting out a domestic reform blueprint for his next administration. If it comes about, it would make him the first Democrat since Franklin Roosevelt to be elected to a second term.

Hours before, however, the smooth unfolding of the Democratic convention was shattered by allegations in a New York tabloid that one of his key campaign strategists, Dick Morris, had a relationship with a prostitute, whom he had allowed to listen in to calls to the White House, and showed copies of speeches.

Mr Morris, a controversial consultant who helped Mr Clinton in Arkansas in the early 1980s, has worked for both Democrats and Republicans over the last 20 years before being recalled by the President after the Democrats' mid-term election disaster in 1994. He is widely credited with the shift to the centre which has helped Clinton gain a commanding lead over Bob Dole, his Republican challenger this autumn. So influential had he become that his face has appeared on the cover of *Time* magazine.

The allegations first appeared in *Star* magazine, and then the *New York Post*. Late yesterday morning, Mr Morris had left Chicago and was reported to have handed in his resignation, tersely expressing his "regret" at the incident. The White House scrambled to minimise damage to Mr Clinton's acceptance speech, the climax to a convention that has been less a political arena than a rolling four-day coronation.

The Morris affair could not have come at a worse moment for the Clinton campaign — notwithstanding the fact that his departure will be widely, albeit secretly, welcomed within the White House.

In last night's address, the President was expected to set out proposals to improve education, toughen the fight against crime, expand health care and reduce poverty. He promised to amend the controversial welfare bill, increasing protection for

THE US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

children. Arriving in Chicago on Wednesday, Mr Clinton reminded America that he was approaching end of his political career, as he prepared to fight "the first campaign for the 21st century and the last campaign for Bill Clinton".

Marginally less media-slick than the Republican convention in San Diego, at least until the Morris bombshell, this gathering had been massively scripted, blurring some traditional distinctions between the parties to the point of invisibility. But real differences do exist, most notably on taxes.

Mr Clinton has already promised a \$100bn tax cut package, centred on a tax credit for children. To that he was expected to add \$8bn, including a capital gains tax cut for home-sellers and incentives for employers to hire people coming off welfare, aimed at fending off fierce criticism from liberals that in his eagerness to neutralise a powerful Republican campaign issue he was casting the nation's poor children to the wolves.

But the total does not approach the across-the-board 15 per cent tax cut promised by Mr Dole, worth \$548bn, which Democrats claim would simply drive up the deficit and push the economy into recession.

In an enthusiastically received address on Wednesday, Vice President Al Gore took some hefty swipes at Mr Dole. Yes, the 73-year-old former Senate leader was a "good and decent" man, but he was offering himself as "a bridge to the past. Tonight, Bill Clinton and I offer ourselves as the bridge to the future." Mr Gore added: "If he says he's the most optimistic man in America, I'd hate to see the pessimists."

From California, where he is touting his tax cut proposals, Mr Dole replied: "I feel sorry for him, he's the hatchet-man for the Democrats... it's unfortunate, but not unexpected."

Back in Chicago came the traditional roll-call of states. Unopposed in the primaries, Mr Clinton took all 4,288 delegate votes — again, a feat last accomplished by Franklin Roosevelt 60 years ago.



Cheer leader: President Clinton urging on his supporters yesterday

Photograph: Win McNamee

Ex-Communists are clapped out

Chicago Diary

A couple of East European Augusts at the Democratic convention — one an ambassador, the other a political scientist — remarked that they could not bring themselves to clap with everybody else. The event evoked painful memories of forced applause at Communist Party conferences at home. An eerie thought, but not a surprising one. The Democratic Convention, like the Republicans one two weeks ago, is a rigorously regimented affair. More fun, more circus, but for the benefit of the television-masses the political commissars have repressed dissent and orchestrated displays of monolithic party unity around the beloved figure of the Leader.

The subordination of political substance to an atmosphere that blends soap opera, rock concert, cup final and Christian revival meeting ensures maximum suspension of critical thought. How else to explain the rapt wonder with which the conventioners listened to the charismatically challenged Al Gore? The Vice-President is a man who delivers a speech as if he has difficulty reading, with the consequence that in each sentence he places the rhetorical emphasis on the wrong word. No matter. His job was to herald the Second Coming of the President, and the audience willingly suspended its disbelief. Thus the crowd listened open-mouthed to his phenomenally

wooden narration of how he lost his sister to cigarettes, and cheered as if a goal had been scored at every ill-judged pause.

Every convention speaker, however inept, knows the secret of transforming dross into gold. You just chuck in one of the stock phrases guaranteed to elicit a Pavlovian response. "Restore the American Dream": "the future of America's children". These words, in these combinations, induce chemical reactions in the brain which translate into feelings of well-being. Brezhnev knew the trick. He used words like "the downfall of bourgeois capitalism" and "the dictatorship of the proletariat".

No phrases resonate more widely in America than the ones coined by the advertisers. Take Nike's slogan, "Just do it". At an anti-abortion rally in Parking Lot E, the designated "protest zone" 200 yards from the convention, a man was wearing a T-shirt that read, "Don't just do it! Do it for the Lord!" On the other side of the family-values divide, a young man was spotted strolling along Michigan Avenue, Chicago's Oxford Street, with his arm around a woman. His T-shirt message? "I just did it".

John Carlin

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international

China turns up heat over Hong Kong's top job

STEPHEN VINES
Hong Kong

China's darkest suspicions over London's attempts to sabotage the post-colonial government in Hong Kong have roared to the surface again, with accusations that Britain is "meddling" in the process of selecting the territory's new head of government, to be known as chief executive.

China launched a two-pronged offensive yesterday as one of the colony's Peking-controlled newspapers accused Hugh Davies - head of the British team discussing transitional arrangements - of lobbying to secure the post for Anson Chan, Governor Chris Patten's deputy and chief secretary.

According to the *Wen Wei Po* newspaper, Britain is guilty of "still ignoring the coming of the year 1997 and still dreaming of extending the era of appointing their candidates as Hong Kong governor beyond 1997".

This was followed by a blast from Zhang Junsheng, senior spokesman for the Xinhua news agency, China's *de facto* embassy in Hong Kong. He said "the British side should not meddle in, and has no rights to poke its nose" into the selection of the chief executive, as this was "entirely a matter for China".

The Foreign Office spokesman in Hong Kong described the accusation of meddling as "absurd", and pointed out that the selection process was "a matter for the people of Hong Kong".

What all this means is that China is making it crystal clear that Mrs Chan has no chance of being given the top job after Hong Kong reverts to Chinese rule next year.

This is despite the fact that every single public opinion has ranked her as by far the most popular candidate for the post.

Although Britain denies meddling in the selection, it is well known that British officials, from the Governor down, are

keen for Mrs Chan to secure the job.

But they have been careful to keep their support quiet, precisely because they know that any hint of British endorsement would be the kiss of death for her chances.

China has yet to formally indicate its choice of candidate for the post of chief executive, but all the signs are that Peking supports the shipping magnate Tung Che-hwa, though he refuses to confirm whether he is in the running.

Mr Tung's shipping compa-



Anson Chan: Britain's choice for chief executive

ny was saved from bankruptcy by Chinese funds after a long history of alliance with China's bitter rivals in Taiwan.

He recently resigned from the Governor's Executive Council, or cabinet, in a move seen as clearing the way for his candidature.

Also in the race is the controversial and widely disliked Lo Tak-shing, the only candidate who has had the courage to declare his candidature.

Mr Lo is seen as the man backed by Chinese hardliners who want to impose strict control over Hong Kong.

His position appeared to be advanced when he was given space in the Chinese Communist Party's mouthpiece, the *People's Daily* early this month.

In a long article he outlined a chilling manifesto for the new order, in which he accused Britain of trying to destabilise Hong Kong ahead of the transfer of sovereignty.

He made it clear that democratic reforms would have to be rolled back, welfare spending cut and the education system changed to foster "patriotism and a love for one's race".

Mr Lo suggested political opponents would have no place in the new order.

"No Government can run smoothly amid meaningless political wrangles," he wrote, calling instead for "resolute and highly efficient" government.

The chief executive will be appointed by November. China is now in the process of forming a 400-strong committee to make the choice. It appears only four names will be allowed to go forward for consideration.

China points out that this method of selection introduces a higher degree of consultation into the process of choosing a head of government than was ever seen during a century-and-a-half of British rule, when governors were appointed in London.

However, there are strong doubts that the selection committee will do anything more than endorse a decision made in Peking.

For this reason Hong Kong's largest party, the Democratic Party, has refused to take part in the process, even though China has held out an olive branch to the party by inviting it to become involved.

A former Xinhua official has said the real choice of Hong Kong's first chief executive will be made by the Communist Party's most senior leaders, including President Jiang Zemin.

He is known to have taken an active interest in the matter and sent a strong signal of his preference by seeking Mr Tung out at a gathering of Chinese advisers in Peking and shaking his hand in front of the television cameras.



Crowd control: Riot police guard the area in front of Jakarta's central court yesterday as lawyers failed to reach a settlement in the opposition leader Megawati Sukarnoputri's battle to return as head of the Indonesian Democracy Party; the case was adjourned for a week. Photograph: AFP

Blacks buy stake in Anglo-American

MARY BRAID
Johannesburg

The drive to transfer economic power to blacks in South Africa has reached a milestone with the decision by Anglo American, the country's biggest corporation, to sell the bulk of its stake in the industrial and media group, Johnnic, to black investors.

The deal, which is politically rather than commercially motivated, mirrors Anglo American's decision in 1964 to sell General Mining to Boer businessmen, following the rise of Afrikaner nationalism. Then, the country's business sector was dominated by the English. General Mining became Gencor, today a multibillion-rand empire, and provided the foundation for the Afrikaner advance into the business sector.

"This deal has to succeed," said one analyst yesterday. "Black businessmen have to show they can do it, too."

The 1.5bn rand (£215m) deal between Anglo American and the National Empowerment Consortium, representing 50 black economic interest groups, took two years to reach fruition. It gives the NEC a 47.7 per cent stake in Johnnic. Anglo American, like every other big white business in South Africa, has been under intense political pressure to make a contribution to black empowerment. As the biggest, its contribution had to be the greatest.

Cyril Ramaphosa, the ANC secretary general who recently put his political career on hold to enter the private sector and become NEC chief negotiator, said the deal was an "historic transaction for the whole of

Africa". In other parts of the continent, nationalism has been the fate of business after black liberation.

The ANC, like the Afrikaner Nationalists, came to power threatening nationalisation but then opted for a more free-market approach. Celebrations of the deal were marred by concern about media ownership and editorial independence at Times Media, part of the Johnnic group, which publishes *Sunday Times*, *Business Day* and *Financial Mail* newspapers.

Mr Ramaphosa is a leading light in New Africa Investments (Nail), the NEC's most influential member. His departure from politics is thought to have been prompted by President Nelson Mandela's decision to appoint Thabo Mbeki, the deputy president, as his unofficial successor. A media empire

could be priceless to Mr Ramaphosa, 10 years younger than Mr Mbeki, in establishing an alternative power base.

In the later stages of negotiations between Anglo American and the NEC, a row erupted at Times Media over last minute attempts to establish an editorial charter. Journalists were not consulted about the charter, drafted by Nigel Bruce, editor of the *Financial Mail*.

Black journalists were insulted that a charter, including clauses protecting editors' jobs in the face of editorial interference from future owners, had not been considered necessary before. They complained there was a racist assumption that black owners were more dangerous to a free press than white ones.

Yesterday, Mr Bruce said he feared Mr Ramaphosa and

the NEC would interfere with the titles' editorial stance. He said Anglo American bought Times Media in the 1970s to prevent Nationalist businessmen buying the group and using it to support apartheid.

"It has become clear that the objective of this deal is political rather than commercial," Mr Bruce said. "Times Media only constitutes 1-2 per cent of Johnnic's profits, but the new owners consider it one of the most desirable assets."

There are other misgivings. In a country where a few white businesses dominate the commercial sector, there is a fear that black empowerment will do no more than replace six fat white cats with six fat black ones. President Mandela refers to it as "black enrichment" which aims to spread economic benefits more widely among blacks.

THE INDEPENDENT

TOUCHDOWN

Produced in association with the

Quarterback's Brett Favre and his prize of fame

Lottery winner is a loser in life

DAVID USBORNE
New York

The parable of Buddy Post is one that should be printed on the back of every lottery ticket. Like the health warning on packets of cigarettes, it would remind players that even if - by some remote chance - they should land the jackpot, the effect on their lives could be ruinous.

Post is a former carnival ride operator who in 1988 won \$16.2m (£10.5m) in the Pennsylvania state lottery. He still has about \$5m (£3.2m) due him in annual payments, but so cursed has been his life by his supposed good fortune that he intends auctioning off those payments later this month.

True, Post, 58, is still in the mansion he bought north of Pittsburgh, and the gas and the telephone are still connected. But the pool is full of rubbish, the rooms are unfurnished and downstairs is stacked with bankruptcy papers.

The misfortunes that have befallen Post in the last eight years have been so numerous as to be almost funny. Indeed, he has sold the film rights to a Hollywood studio that wants to hire Jack Lemmon to portray him. He has been convicted of assault, his sixth wife has left him, he has been the victim of a murder plot hatched by his brother, he has had to give one-third of his winnings to a former landlady who claimed partial ownership of the winning ticket and he is bankrupt.

"Money didn't change me. It changed people around me that I knew, that I thought cared a little about me," he said. "But they only cared about the money. I didn't know it was going to escalate into some kind of nightmare."

With the planned auction of his remaining payments on 26 September, Post is hoping to raise enough money to pay off his debts and buy his mansion outright. Even in this he may be frustrated. The Pennsylvania Lottery is considering blocking the sale on the grounds that it would amount to illegal trading of lottery futures.

No survivors as Russian plane hits mountains

ROLF SODERLUND
Reuter

Oslo - All 141 passengers and crew were feared killed when a Russian airliner crashed into a mountain on the remote Arctic island of Spitzbergen yesterday.

The plane was flying in a relief group of Russian miners and their families who work in the Norwegian coal mining settlement there.

The crash, the worst in Norwegian aviation history, happened as the chartered Tupolev jet approached the island's only airport.

The island governor's office said no survivors had been found and denied a claim from Moscow that five people had escaped from the wreckage.

"This is totally unknown to us and wrong," the Norwegians said.

"They must have walked away from the site without us noticing, so that has got to be

wrong." A spokeswoman for the Russian Emergencies Ministry said they based their claim on a report from the crash site.

But a spokesman for Vnukovo Airlines, which had chartered the plane to the coal company that was flying the miners to the settlement, could not confirm this.

The accident occurred in bad weather six miles east of Longyearbyen.

Air traffic officials said they had lost contact with the aircraft shortly before it was due to land. The jet crashed at a remote site, with no roads nearby.

"No survivors have been found and our first aid staff are returning from the crash site," a local government official said.

The Norwegian aviation inspectorate said the plane was making a normal instrument landing.

The miners were travelling to work in one of the island's three open-cast coal mines.

Some of them were accompanied by their families. The first rescuers arrived shortly after 1pm and reported that most of the three-engine jet's wreckage was scattered around the top of the small Opera mountain while the rest was found further down the slopes.

The miners, most of them Ukrainians, represented a considerable part of the Russian community on Spitzbergen, which numbers around 2,000 people.

They were due to replace more than 100 other Russian miners who should have returned to Moscow on the doomed flight.

Their colleagues wept when they were told the plane had crashed a few minutes away from the landing site, Norwegian radio reported.

Spitzbergen is a Norwegian coal-mining settlement and Russia and Norway share the island's resources under a treaty dating back to the 1920s.

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the leader page

Voters want a clear message, not debate

It's becoming a pattern. Paul Flynn, Clare Short, now Austin Mitchell. Labour dissidents lash out. All hell breaks loose. First Peter Mephistopheles Campbell berates them mercilessly in private for rocking the boat, then he or his anointed representative takes to *Newsnight* to label them as cranks and lone wolves. The slap of the ruler on outstretched palms stings the dissident into back-tracking, usually on the airwaves, making everyone look silly in the process. Thus Mr Mitchell yesterday took to justifying his analogy between Tony Blair and the late Kim Il Sung as a vote to Labour leadership. Such nonsense is a godsend to the spin-doctorate. On Mr Blair's behalf (witness Robin Cook yesterday) his chorus: he is a maverick, the kind of MP who used to complain about Clement Attlee and would still be complaining if the Blessed Keir Hardie returned to lead the party.

This won't do at this point in the electoral calendar. Whether right or wrong, there is genuine dismay among many Labour MPs and activists at the direction the party is taking: paradoxically, the tactics of pretending it does not matter only serve to amplify the fact that it does. Mephistopheles *et al* are left looking even shifter than usual. So yesterday Labour deserved every drop of delighted Schadenfreude that dropped from Michael Heseltine's lips as he slavered over this latest bout of

indiscipline. Mark that word. No party could or should attempt to silence its oddballs. But a party preparing itself for power, as Labour is, should be able to distinguish a one-off rant from a sustained internal party complaint.

Let us give Mr Mitchell the credit of his original contribution, rather than his embarrassed glosses. He is right in saying that there is widespread resentment in the Labour movement about the style of Tony Blair's leadership. It is a cowardly kind of resentment, admittedly, that gets more vocal when Labour is 21 points ahead in the polls. It would be a lot harder for newspaper and magazine editors to get Labour MPs to pipe up if the Tories' wish-fulfilling claims about the return to them of Middle England were true. But the rumbling goes on, in the ranks of the unions, in the constituencies, on the backbenches. It's there for anyone with ears to hear, even though for most dissidents party spirit still entails public silence.

Criticism of party style has become personified in the figure of Peter Mandelson, aka spin-doctor in chief, and useful target for most dissident contumely. It is not usually honest criticism. What the dissidents really object to is not party centralisation, or the assertion of authority by the leader, but the kind of policies a Blair government would or would not enact. There can be no pretending that Labour's rank

and file have been converted, woman and man, to Brownism in fiscal policy or Harmanism in education. Many cling to a world view in which, mysteriously, socialism is still attainable; though they would never dream of signing up with Arthur Scargill, they harbour thoughts of social and economic transformation. How many there are who might be described as old Labour still is a matter of guesswork. The fact is, there is a significant slice of the Labour Party that does not believe in new Labourism. If Labour is elected to form the next government it will be in spite of rather than because of them.

This fact, the two strands of Labour, is not a side issue – it matters. The admixture of populism, liberalism, realism – whatever set of isms adequately captures Tony Blair's offer to the nation – is a necessary if not sufficient condition of Labour's success. To that extent the dissidents are wrong, unless they admit they would rather maintain their policy purity in Opposition. Second, in an ideal world old Labourites would be encouraged to shout their views from the roof tops and engage on all fronts, in the interests of wider public debate. What makes for interest in politics is argument: the sharper the dialogue, the more clearly

contested the political terrain, the better. Who would not ask for more party pluralism – in an ideal world?

But the real world, particularly right now, after 17 years of Conservative government, is intolerant of dissent. The constitution of the press, its political biases, mean that debate becomes conflict, disagreement becomes subversion. In these circumstances the Labour leader has no choice but to seek to present his cohorts as a united hand, singing with the exquisite harmony of a Welsh choir. And when he hears a bum note, it requires more than a gentle tap with the baton.

Tony Blair should re-read the riot act. Dissidence is bad media politics. Dissidents are harming election chances: they are enemies of the Labour Party. In the short run, behaving like the aforementioned Kim Il Sung is precisely what Mr Blair should do.

But (it is easy to forget) political parties are voluntary organisations. Mr Blair and his praetorian guard are not lording it over imperial legions. They will have to live with a certain volume of internal complaint. What he needs to do is continue what he began yesterday, in seeking to address the people of this country directly over the heads of the dissidents. The public do not really want to plug into an autistic debate about Labour's ideological heritage. What they are more likely to respond to is something – minus the trains and the

hoopla of Chicago – more like the figure President Clinton has been cutting. He has identified a small number of themes on which there are clear differences between the Democrats and the Republicans (and this despite his having moved sharply rightwards in recent months). People here also want to hear about those Labour themes that will really make a difference. And the dissidents who muddy that message will only ever deplete Labour's prospects of making that difference.

Stress and the Nineties child

To most parents, to many more teachers and even most children, the news that one in 10 children suffers from stress will come as deeply underwhelming. Seven or eight out of 10, more like. And should we be surprised? Examination pressures, paedophiles, drugs, diet, traffic, the sorry example of Liam Gallagher. So what do we do? Regret the death of childhood as the "happiest days of our lives"? More realistic to accept that life is pretty stressful – and, thank heaven, challenging, exhilarating and full of the potential for happiness. We should not want to shield our children from too much of it, lest they have nothing left to revel in.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Howard's prisons don't work

Sir: Polly Toynbee is right to argue that the Home Secretary's ironically named "prison works" policy ignores the evidence of what works best in reducing offending ("Howard's prison time-bomb", 28 August).

There has been widespread and proper concern about the recent unprepared release of some 500 prisoners. But far less attention has been paid to the continuing threat to public safety of unnecessary reoffending produced by an increasingly punitive penal policy.

An extensive body of research now shows that certain types of work with offenders can reduce recidivism by 20 to 50 per cent more than other approaches. These include highly focused programmes which change offending behaviour and attitudes, teach offenders to restrain aggressive and impulsive behaviour, tackle alcohol and drug problems and provide skills training and employment. Effective programmes have been developed for different groups including those convicted of aggressive offences, stealing, auto-crime, sexual offences, drink-driving and fire-setting. These methods produce better results in the community than in custody, but, when applied in prison, they can also significantly cut reoffending on release.

The Government's policy of encouraging a greatly increased use of imprisonment flies in the face of these findings. A rational strategy to reduce crime would involve extending the most effective forms of community supervision to many of the less serious offenders who are now imprisoned. The resulting smaller prison population would relieve tension in jails and enable the Prison Service to provide effective programmes for a higher proportion of those in custody. PAUL CAVADINO
Chair, Penal Affairs Consortium
London SW9

A cure for the dawkins

Sir: In his article on the relative merits of different religions (27 August), Andrew Brown makes some interesting points but misses the main one. While he is right to place an emphasis on the behaviour of adherents rather than on their beliefs in making value judgements, it is more important to focus on the methods used to recruit and retain those adherents. It is in this area that many religious movements offend against basic values and transgress the boundary between acceptable and unacceptable behaviour.

Unless we suffer from chronic dawkins, most of us will defend a person's right to believe anything or nothing. However, methods used to instil and reinforce those beliefs can be measured against objective standards, and in this respect it is perfectly legitimate to describe one religious movement as better or worse than another. This point was well made in a motion on the Unification Church passed by the General Synod a few years ago, and remains valid. +JOHN LUDLOW
The Rt Rev John Saxbee
Bishop and Archdeacon of Ludlow
Craven Arms, Shropshire

Sir: At the beginning of his excellent essay Andrew Brown complains of an attack of the dawkins, a condition named after the well-known atheist. He then goes on to argue that the longevity of a religion, together with the quality of the lives of its adherents, is a good measure of whether or not it is reasonable.

He fails to point out that full-blown dawkins, which he describes as a state where there seems nothing to choose between any religion and another, is in fact a religion in itself. It involves adherence to a faith system (or, perhaps, lack-of-faith system) every bit as demanding as any other, as anyone who has read a little philosophy of science will realise. Is dawkins, then, a religion worthy of acceptance? I am not in a position to comment upon whether the character of Richard Dawkins' life is of a quality to attract us to dawkins, but the fact that the latter, in its present fanatical form, only arrived on the scene with the incarnation of Richard Dawkins himself must surely lead us to treat it with suspicion. Canon JOHN INGE
Ely Cathedral

Worlock and Catholic schools

Sir: Alice Thomas Ellis, interviewed in the *Independent Magazine* (24 August), records letters she had received stating that Archbishop Worlock had "closed all the Catholic schools in Portsmouth". This is totally false. Throughout the Archbishop's episcopacy in Portsmouth I was a member of the Diocesan Schools'

Commission. As chairman of that body and as bishop, Derek Worlock was an ardent, active supporter of our Catholic schools. There are 55 Catholic maintained schools and 32 Catholic independent schools in the diocese. JOHN DOYLE
Petersfield, Hampshire

Paying for a high growth rate

Sir: The simpleton in me says that Paul Ormerod's conclusion "The larger the increase in labour's share of national income (and, as a corollary, the greater the fall in the share of profits), the more marked has been the fall in the growth rate" is a perfectly axiomatic statement ("Don't follow the European model; it's collapsing", 27 August).

To take this to its logical conclusion: if labour were to be paid nothing, corporate profits would be massive, nearly all those profits would, in theory, be available for capital reinvestment; and lo and behold, the growth rate of the economy would be huge, providing of course that all the "produce" were to be exported, since nobody (in Britain, for example) could afford to buy anything.

Isn't this though precisely what happens in countries known as the "new tiger economies"? Isn't it also true that once the underpaid population starts to become better educated and their expectations start to rise, they become

interested in sharing some of the wealth that they have helped to create, and then, as you point out, less available to grow the economy, as in the case of Japan?

What Mr Ormerod seems to be suggesting is that Britain, even though we have an educated population, has reversed this trend, and the other countries in Europe should follow our example. But this is strictly a short-term phenomenon (by short-term, I mean several decades). Are we not about to change the government in this country (despite the fact that in its lifetime we have enjoyed a better growth rate than our European neighbours) because the national income is not being shared equitably with "labour"? RCD HICKS
Managing Director
PMC Specialities International
London W1

Sir: Since we are talking about a comparison of two averages (1960-73 and 1974-95), one plausible explanation for Britain's relatively improved position is that in the first period we were so truly awful that, in a sense, we got our retaliation in first.

It is clear that Germany and other Western European states are making strenuous efforts to address the problems Paul Ormerod notes. With their considerable underlying strengths (not least in education and infrastructure) it would be surprising if they did not pull off the trick and once again put clear water between themselves and the UK. GRANT BAIRD
Edinburgh

Democracy in the City

Sir: Andreas Whittam Smith is much too pessimistic in concluding that there is no answer to the corporate greed displayed by the directors of our leading companies ("Close the wage gap or everyone will suffer", 19 August).

There is clearly no incentive for fund managers acting on behalf of institutional investors to change the present system for determining directors' pay, since they too are on the same upwardly moving salary escalator.

The solution is to democratise the investment institutions – the pension funds, the unit trusts and insurance funds – so that they represent the interests of the wider community whose money is invested with them and whose interests they should be required to serve. NIGEL WILKINS
London

Rampant plants in the heat

Sir: I read with great interest Anna Pavord's article in today's *Independent* (23 August) entitled "Bring on the Olives and Bananas".

I was delighted to see wonderful hot-weather plants receiving wider attention. However, for those attempting to grow these plants for the first time the information given was a little inaccurate.

Cordyline australis will grow to almost tree height, and leaves approaching 6ft long are not uncommon. *Kniphofia* flower throughout the summer, and vary greatly in both size and colour. *Datura arborea* is not hardy. *Ricinus communis*, while spectacular, is one of the most toxic plants known to man and provided the poison that killed Georgi Markov. Cannaes come in all sizes, from Lucifer only 18in high to Wyoming nearly 10ft tall. Musa basjoo, while being the hardiest and a very quick-growing banana, will not grow 10 feet in a single season.

Omitted from the list were such glorious plants as *Hedychium*, the fragrant ginger lilies, and the whole family of palms. IAN B DUNNE
Southampton

The sins of the smokers ...

Sir: If "living with a heavy smoker more than doubles your risk of heart attacks" (report, 28 August), maybe the increased incidence of heart disease among the middle-aged, about which we hear so much, is partly attributable to childhoods lived with heavily smoking parents.

I have seen no references to research into whether or not the effects of passive smoking during childhood are discernible in the health now of those who were brought up in the 1940s and 1950s, when the wartime stress and post-war food rationing turned many parents into heavy smokers. It would be interesting to know. JANET GODDEN
Oxford

Long memory of a caring society

Sir: The letter from Paul Cooper, aged 25, is sad (26 August). His generation has grown up under a single party dominated government, which has distorted democracy.

The difference between the parties cannot be seen solely in their present "policies" but in their objectives and method of government and its application to all the people.

I am 75 and my first vote was cast at the end of a long, devastating war preceded by years of hardship and unemployment. Those who were young and lived through the war had the courage to use their first vote to express hope for the future. The post-war Labour government gradually fulfilled their hopes. It did not leave things to "market forces" but gave all people the opportunities to go forward and create a honest, secure life for themselves, providing care for the unfortunate.

When the NHS was introduced, many people, as we did, felt sufficiently confident to use our "rainy day" savings as a deposit on a home of our own and then to take up the educational opportunities available for our children to proceed to university and professional qualifications. When sudden rare illness struck we were not financially overwhelmed. At the end of a long life, living wisely, we are fortunately able to enjoy our last years without extra state aid.

After 18 years of continuous Tory government, in a time of long-term peace, the young people of today do not have a hopeful vision for their future or for their children's future. No wonder they are bewildered.

A Labour government will judge its policies on their fundamental belief in creating and maintaining a caring, responsible society for all the people. LOUISE WILSON
Crockenhill, Kent

Men behaving hazardingly

Sir: The onslaught continues. The Royal College of Nursing is the latest body to chastise the male sex for "behaving badly" ("Men really are behaving badly" – and only women can save them", 27 August). Real men must fight back now if they are to reverse the dangerous tendency to feminise all behaviour.

According to the report from the College's Men's Health Forum, we men tend to see our bodies as machines, "focusing on being fit, strong, energetic, and in control". Good. We are also less likely to seek help for problems because of our need to feel self-sufficient. Excellent. In an age when individual autonomy is being eroded by increasing state intervention, it is precisely these qualities which should be held up as an example to both men and women.

If greater risk-taking leads to an earlier death, so be it. Social, scientific, and artistic experimentation have always been generated in the male-dominated public sphere. The supposed feminine attributes of restraint and safety-consciousness are positively dangerous. These qualities are a recipe for a stagnant, dull world, where everyone lives until they are at least 120. HUGH PETO
Edinburgh

analysis

A blind eye to history

Robert Fisk
looks into a
wave of
Holocaust
denial that
has seized the
Arab world

A new Arabic imprint of Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf* has been thundering off the presses of a publishing company high in the hills above Beirut. With its cover adorned with a swastika and a photograph of a young, earnest-looking Hitler, 2,500 copies have already been distributed to Lebanese bookshops.

In his windowless printing offices in Kesrouan – a bunker-like building whose walls of prestressed concrete would have appealed to the author of the book – Selim Sader agrees that Hitler was "not a very nice man". But, he adds, "If you ask the Nazis, they would have told you something different."

The preface to the edition – originally printed in 1963 and also distributed in Iraq – would certainly not have offended the Nazis. Louis al-Haj, the former editor-in-chief of the Beirut newspaper *An Nahar*, who died two years ago, tells readers that Hitler's theories of nationalism, government and race are "eternal" issues, that Hitler – "one of the few great men who almost stopped the passage of history" – left behind him an "intellectual heritage". Only towards the end does Mr al-Haj acknowledge that the Nazis set up "a single-party dictatorship... of force and violence and Machiavellianism". At no point does he mention the most abiding and dangerous theme of Hitler's only book: his hatred of the Jews.

Not so Issa Abweij, the Beirut publisher of *Mein Kampf* who – like the Lebanese printers and the late Louis al-Haj – is a Christian. Hitler, he agreed in his tiny bookstore off Hamra Street, was an evil man who would ultimately have placed Arabs on the same level as Jews – as non-Aryans to be destroyed.

But then Mr Abweij set off into an argument that is today heard ever more frequently and disturbingly throughout the Middle East. "It is not true that six million Jews were killed in the Second World War," he said. When I told him he was wrong – that documentation and historical research had conclusively proven this figure to be true – he brusquely changed his argument.

"If Hitler did kill six million Jews, then I am against the killing of these six million. But I am against the killing of even one citizen of any country. The

Israelis say that the Jewish suffering entitles them to take Palestinian land and make a state. So do millions of Palestinians have to be killed for them to be afforded human rights?"

The Holocaust – and the attempt to deny its reality – has always proven an intractable problem for Arabs. Over the years, I have listened to Lebanese and Syrians and Egyptians and Saudis insisting that Hitler's destruction of Europe's Jews was a "myth" invented by the Israelis to justify their seizure of Palestinian Arab land.

And I recall one Sunday lunchtime, sitting over drinks in a Beirut garden, when the host, a silver-haired, Western-educated Lebanese – and, again, a Christian – suddenly remarked: "It's a pity Hitler did not finish the job." This terrible remark brought an immediate silence to our table. When I explained that I had visited many of Hitler's extermination camps, that the piles of human hair and ash at Birkenau were all real, that the figure of six million was accurate, that these were the remains of innocent human beings, that nothing could justify such a comment, he shrugged his shoulders. Did he not realise, I asked, that Hitler would have treated all semitic people with the same viciousness once he had used the Arabs for his own purposes – that Arabs and Jews would both ultimately have been slaughtered if Rommel had reached Palestine? He waved a hand beside his face. "Maybe," he said.

The acknowledgement of another people's suffering has always been difficult for those who regard the suffering people as enemies. And Israel's own use of the Holocaust to justify its ruthless policy towards the Arabs critically damaged any Arab ability there might have been to accept the facts of history. Menachem Begin repeatedly referred to the destruction of Europe's Jews during Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon – in which more than 17,000 Arabs, mostly civilians, were killed – and fantasised in a letter to President Reagan that Yasser Arafat, under siege in Beirut, was comparable to Hitler in his last days of encirclement in Berlin.

But the new wave of historical denial in the Middle East appears to have sprung from the growing – if tardy – realisation that Israel, supported by the most potent of all US administrations, would win whatever peace was made with the Arabs, and that the "peace process", heavily in Israel's favour (since it guarantees no military withdrawals, no Palestinian capital in Jerusalem and no Palestinian state), would be imposed on the Middle East whether or not the Arabs liked it.

If that "process" is now regarded here as already buried – and Israel's determination to build yet more Jewish homes on Arab land as part of the funeral service – this has of course not stanchied the growing refusal to understand and to concede the facts of the Holocaust.

Roger Garaudy, the French philosopher whose book *Les mythes fondateurs de la politique israélienne* calls into question the very nature of the Holocaust, has now been honoured with an Arabic edition of his work, published by the El Ghad el Arabi press in Cairo. Last month Mr Garaudy undertook a tour of Arab capitals, received by Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam in Damascus, by Lebanese intellectuals – both Christian and Muslim – in Beirut and by the Jordanian Association of Writers in Amman. He was feted in all three cities and given prominent – and almost exclusively favourable – coverage in the Arab press.

Only in Beirut was he challenged – in a brave and powerful article by the Christian writer Elias Khoury, "Arab culture... has not seriously dealt with the terrifying significance of the idea of the 'Final Solution'," Mr Khoury complained. "Like fools, we rush to ignore the whole issue and to praise anyone who makes light of – and minimises the importance of – the Nazi extermination camps. Doesn't the plan to exterminate the Jews... carry within it the seeds of the extermination of every other race or people?" Arabs should consider the Holocaust objectively, Mr Khoury continued, "as the

incarnation of the most blatant kind of European racism... from which we continue to suffer".

In the Saudi-owned daily *Al-Hayat*, Abdul Wahab Badrakhan suggested that the Arabs were being duped by their own refusal to accept the existence of the Holocaust. They stupidly feared, he said, that acknowledgement of Hitler's crimes against the Jews would serve to minimise Israel's brutality against the Arabs. But it was ridiculous "to deny a crime against humanity of which the victims were Jews and others who had fallen into the hands of the Nazis, for the sole purpose of proving another crime against humanity (the expulsion of Palestinians from

their homes in 1948) whose victims were Arabs suffering at the hands of Israeli Jews."

Inevitably, Holocaust-denial has become institutionalised in some Arab countries. Most refused to show Stephen Spielberg's film *Schindler's List*, citing a variety of spurious reasons for their decision. In Egypt, the government banned the film on the grounds that it contained "too many murders".

When I worked on a series of three films in 1993 for Britain's Channel 4 and the American Discovery channel, under the title *From Beirut to Bosnia*, part of the second film recorded the fate of a Jewish family during the Holocaust, a family whose survivors now lived in the home of an exiled Palestinian in pre-

sent-day Israel. But when the Beirut New TV channel bought the rights to the film to show in Lebanon, they abruptly ended the door of the Holocaust survivors in Acre, cutting off the elderly Israeli's description of his family's murder, pictures of the railway station and memorial ground at Treblinka extermination camp.

When I protested to one of the station's officials, he replied that "Lebanese security people don't like film about the Holocaust." In fairness, it should be added that – after I had protested vigorously to the Lebanese chairman – the Beirut television company did re-show the film in its entirety

three months later, the first time that a Lebanese audience was able to see a film which dealt with the Holocaust.

There is, of course, no exclusivity in historical denial. When the same film series was shown in the United States, an Israeli lobby group brought commercial pressure on Discovery not to re-show the series. They complained, among other things, that I should never have referred to the West Bank as "occupied" – it was at the time occupied by thousands of Israeli troops as most of it still is – and claimed that a pregnant Palestinian girl whom the Israeli army refused to assist to hospital during a curfew was not in fact expecting a child. She later gave birth to her sup-

posedly non-existent baby, but Discovery caved in and refused a second showing to the series – thus ironically ensuring that the Holocaust sequence also disappeared.

This is only one small example of the problem encountered by anyone trying to report the facts of Israeli history. Reporters, for example, who regularly refer to the expulsion of Palestinians by Israelis in 1948 – at least 750,000 were driven from their homes – regularly receive letters from supporters of Israel who accuse them of anti-semitism, adding, untruthfully, that the Palestinians left under the orders of their own political leadership. Pioneering work by Israeli historians, such as Benny Morris, have helped to document the deliberate expulsion of the Palestinians; but the myths live on.

Similarly with Haj Amin al-Husseini, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, who spent part of the Second World War in Berlin urging the Germans on to greater military victories in the Middle East. Haj Amin is a dark and frightening figure for most Israelis but a hero to tens of thousands of Palestinians – Arafat attended his funeral in Beirut in the 1970s – because he refused to accept Jewish immigration into pre-war Palestine and never agreed to the kind of humiliating peace Arafat eventually signed.

Israelis claim that Haj Amin urged Palestinians to massacre Jews in the 1930s – which is untrue. Equally, however, Arabs refuse to believe that Haj Amin specifically asked the Nazis to send Europe's Jews into exile – which he did. Haj Amin also spent some weeks in Bosnia, recruiting Muslims to fight for Hitler against Russia and against Tito's partisan army in Yugoslavia itself – a deed which Serbs still remember with frightening venom but which Arabs have forgotten. Again, it is an Israeli researcher, Zvi Elpeleg, who has written the fairest account of Haj Amin's life.

Yet myth and historical denial persist. Perhaps that is the nature of war – that until a conflict ends, its history cannot be corrected. But the wickedness of the Holocaust – its uniqueness and genocidal intent – have set a test which Arabs have repeatedly failed, and failed for political reasons.

No Muslim in the Middle East has any problem in accepting the fact of the Turkish genocide of the Armenians in 1915, even though these atrocities were committed by fellow Muslims. But the Holocaust requires an empathy which a humiliated Arab world cannot find within itself.

This refusal is as much a danger to Arabs as it is to Jews, for the evil that was done in Europe could effortlessly have been committed against Muslims, Christians and Jews in the Middle East. And the seeds of racism – as Elias Khoury so boldly pointed out – still lie in the soil of Europe, against Arabs as well as Jews.



A long dark shadow: the new Arabic edition of *Mein Kampf*, now rolling off the presses in Beirut

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The witches of Edinburgh – Poles apart

When I first arrived in Edinburgh for the Festival, I overheard two people in the Assembly Rooms talking. One said something rather cynical or pretentious, and the other one said, "I think we're having one of those Fringe conversations, aren't we?", and they both laughed. But talking and swapping of gossip does take up a lot of time here – looking back to see what I have done at the Fringe, I find that, like many other people, I spent a lot of my time in the Pleasance Courtyard discussing a very important topic, ie, what we would be doing if we weren't having a pleasant time sitting in the Pleasance Courtyard.

During the rest of the year it is just a quiet university backwater – on my first day here I met a middle-aged man staring mournfully into the merry maelstrom of outdoors tables and drinkers and saying to himself, "That's my parking space in there!" – but for the Fringe month it is a place to drink and jostle and talk.

Or rather, to listen. Two weeks ago, for instance, I was asking Ralph Oswick of the Bath Natural Theatre Company what he had seen on the Fringe that was good.

"Well, I've seen the travelling Polish version of Macbeth."

"How was it?"

"I was disappointed."

"Not good?"

"Oh, no, it was good enough, even if you know no Polish. But I was disappointed because when I went in, there were three very big ladies going in front of me, and I just knew from the look of them that they were going to be the three witches. They sat in front of me looking very threatening and I was waiting for the moment when they would leap up dramatically on to the stage, when I heard one of them say to another, 'Oh, dear – I didn't know it was going to be in Polish...!'"

But it's not just the Fringe – it's real life as well. We were having dinner one Saturday night in a nice little restaurant called Keeper's, with a big room off to one side that was

full of a noisy American party, which we could hear but not see. They all fell silent at one point for the leader to address them as follows.

"All right, can I just talk to you about worship tomorrow morning? Now, in the church we're attending I don't know if they will be using ONE large chalice or several small chalices pouring into smaller cups, so if any of you has any problem with either approach, please let me know..."

Weird. Even notices that I have jotted down have a slightly odd flavour. There was one I spotted in the Royal Commonwealth Pool when we went for a swim: "No

Access To General Purpose Room". There was a blackboard I noticed in Portobello, outside a pub on the beach called The Tides Inn, which was the sort of blackboard that normally says something conventional like "Lunch served from 12 to 3" but which in this instance said pleadingly, "NORMA – DON'T FORGET YOU'RE WORKING TONIGHT!"

I also copied down some graffiti in the gents' loo at the Botanical Gardens, partly because some of it was in Gaelic and partly because it was the gratifying sort of graffiti that begins with one line and is then added to by other people. It went like this:

1. "Saor Alba! Free Scotland! Thigair la..."

2. (In a different hand) "This Canadian heartily agrees with this."

3. (In a different, scornful scrawl) "Oh yes, back to the old clan and feudal system..."

I must go back at the end of the week and see if the debate has continued.

Even our own little show, "The Death of Tchaikovsky –

a Sherlock Holmes Mystery" (adv) has produced useful comments. A microbiologist came to see it one night and left a note with the stage crew saying: "You might tell the cast that you catch cholera from a bacterium, not a virus". The script has been amended accordingly. And one night my old music master from school, Noel de Jongh, came to see the show (in which I briefly play the euphonium) and could be heard saying to his neighbour, "I used to teach Kingston music, you know!", then adding, "Not that you'd know it."

Actually, it was Noel who came up with my best overheard remark at the Fringe. Afterwards in the Pleasance Courtyard I heard him saying to someone: "I had an aunt who smoked so many cigarettes that her voice went deeper and deeper as she got older. Towards the end of her life she could easily manage the bass chorus part in *The Messiah*."

Now she would have been a wow on the Fringe.



Miles Kingston

obituaries / gazette

The Rev Eric Heaton

In 1979 Eric Heaton became Dean of Christ Church, Oxford. It is an unusual and demanding job, combining the offices of Dean of a cathedral and Head of a college. But no one could have been better suited to fill these roles with distinction.

Heaton had already served two colleges in Oxford and Cambridge. He had been first Chaplain, then Dean and Fellow, and latterly Tutor in Theology at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, and had been Chaplain, Fellow and Tutor at St John's College, Oxford. He had also served two cathedrals, having been Canon (latterly Chancellor) at Salisbury and Dean of Durham.

He brought to Christ Church just what it needed: decisive leadership, robust good sense, and a deep concern, not only for academic values, but for value in general. And, with all this, affability and infectious good humour. He quelled warring factions and instigated much needed reforms - was it not obvious that, in addition to its hundred and one other committees, an academic institution ought to have an academic

committee? Would the cathedral not obviously benefit from a registrar to oversee its day to day administration?

I have mentioned his concern for academic values. Naturally he was keen that graduates and undergraduates should do well in their examinations and their research. But, like a former Master of Balliol, he hoped above all that they would acquire the ability to recognise when a man is talking rot.

He thought that a college ought to produce men and women who would benefit the world, not just by their possessing this or that expertise, but by being people with humanity of outlook and clarity of vision. He believed also in the value of a sense of community, not only amongst present members of the college, but also amongst former members. One of his last acts as Dean was to bring about the creation of the Christ Church Association to foster just such a sense of mutual affection and common interest.

Naturally he valued clarity and good sense in the academic field; and not just for their

own sake. He also thought it important to communicate what was valuable in academic studies to a wider world. His own academic expertise lay in the field of Old Testament studies. But he was impatient with the minutiae of academic research, and, for the most part, his books were aimed at making the fruits of scholarship accessible to others. What he produced were not tired deceptions, but works which were fresh, lively and stimulating: notably *Everyday Life in Old Testament Times* (1956), *The Hebrew Kingdoms* (1968), and especially his first book, *His Servants the Prophets* (1949), later enlarged as *The Old Testament Prophets*, and still being reissued.

But he was an original thinker too, especially in his treatment of the school tradition of the Old Testament. His interest in this was already apparent in his earlier works, and explicit in his most obviously scholarly book, *Solomon's New Men* (1974). And the topic would have been further explored in the Bampton Lectures which he had been due to give in 1980. As it turned out, how-

ever, his becoming Dean of Christ Church led him to shelve these plans, and it was not until 1993 that he finally returned to them. He was again invited to give the Bampton Lectures, and published them as *The School Tradition of the Old Testament*. There were, no doubt, a number of reasons why he found the schoolmen congenial. Certainly they were sophisticated and urbane. They also faced theological difficulties with honesty and clarity of mind. But what he admired above all was their attitude to goodness, to moral value. Like them he believed in objective value, and like them he believed in our natural ability to discern it. It is not that we rely on some special revelation about the nature of God and his commands to enable us to know how to behave. Rather our knowledge of God comes through our natural, if God given, power of understanding what is good.

This attitude to the relation between God and morality also shaped his views about the duty of the Church. He was highly suspicious of doctrine; at any rate he thought that the Church

should not teach people to believe unintelligible things. He did think that it should help to teach people about morality, but emphatically not morality which was peculiar to Christians, but that morality which it was possible for all people of good will to discern.

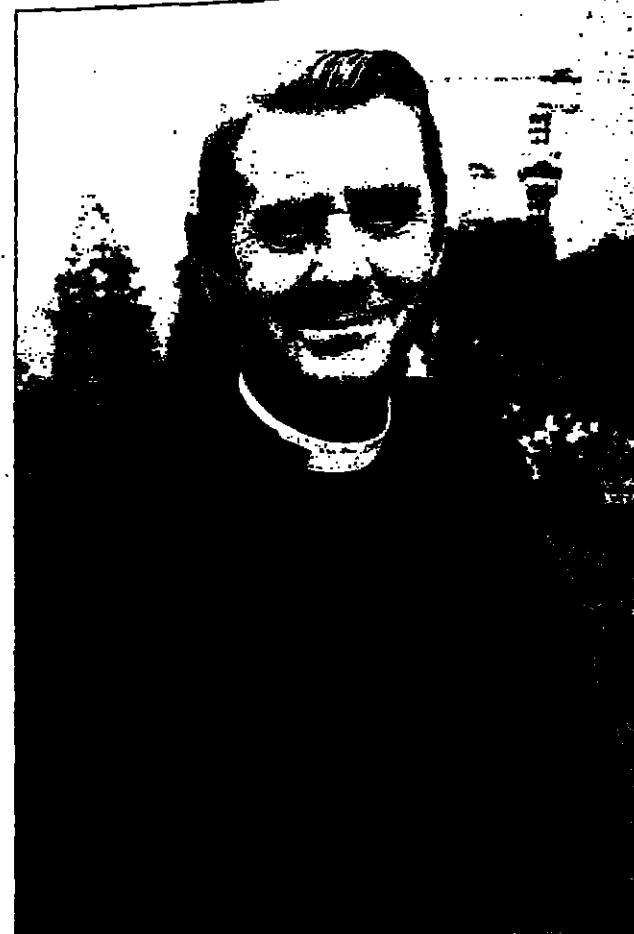
If his theological views were liberal, his views on liturgy were more conservative. But there was no contradiction here. He valued decorum and transparency. He was suspicious equally of charismatic enthusiasm and of ritual. He thought that a service should be, like prayer in George Herbert's words, "Heaven in ordinary".

Eric Heaton did not hold in high regard very much contemporary work in Theology or Biblical Studies. In many cases he thought that he recognised not. An undoubted exception was the work of C.H. Dodd, in his time the leading New Testament scholar in the country, and the general director of the *New English Bible* - a work he much admired. It was particularly happy, therefore, that he should have married Rachel Dodd. It was particularly hap-

py too that they should have complemented each other so perfectly. Throughout their married life, in Cambridge, Salisbury, Oxford and Durham, their house was a place which radiated friendship and warmth. It was a place where academics and rugby footballers, soldiers and business people, the distinguished and the ordinary could feel equally at home.

Hugh Rice

Eric William Heaton, priest and theologian: born 15 October 1920; ordained deacon 1944, priest 1945; Curate of St Oswald's, Durham 1944-45; Chaplain, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge 1945-46; Dean and Fellow 1946-53; Canon Residentiary, Salisbury Cathedral 1953-60; Chancellor 1956-60; Tutor in Theology, Official Fellow and Chaplain, St John's College, Oxford 1960-74; Senior Tutor 1967-73; Dean of Durham 1974-79; Dean of Christ Church, Oxford 1979-91; Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Oxford University 1984-91; DD Lambeth 1991; married 1951 Rachel Dodd (two sons, two daughters); died Oxford 24 August 1996.



Heaton: valued decorum and transparency Photograph: News Team

Sylvia Fisher

Sylvia Fisher, the much-loved Australian dramatic soprano whose London operatic career spanned well over a quarter of a century, had never professionally appeared on stage before, at the age of 38, she made her Covent Garden debut in December 1948 as Leonore in *Fidelio*.

Specialising in the German repertoire, she went on to sing Wagner's Elsa, Sieglinde, Gutrune, Senta and Isolde, but her greatest success at Covent Garden was undoubtedly the Marchschallin in *Der Rosenkavalier*, a role which suited her vocally, dramatically and temperamentally. Another very sympathetic part was Ellen Orford in *Peter Grimes*, and after leaving Covent Garden in 1964, she sang many of the other roles in Britten operas created by Joan Cross, and herself created one, Miss Wingrave, in Britten's television opera, *Owen Wingrave*.

Sylvia Fisher was born in Melbourne, and studied there at the Albert Street Conservatorium with Mary Campbell. While a student she sang Hermione in Lully's *Cadmus et Hermione* at the Comedy Theatre, her only stage appearance until her arrival in Britain. After winning the Melbourne Sun Aria Contest, in which she sang "Elisabeth's Greeting" from *Tannhäuser*, she embarked on a career as a concert singer, while studying further with Adolf Spivakowsky, to whom she attributed her later success.

A regular broadcaster with the Australian Broadcasting Commission, she sang much oratorio - Bach's *Mass in B Minor*, Handel's *Messiah* and *In Egypt*, Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* and *Ninth Symphony*, Brahms' *German Requiem* and

the Verdi *Requiem* - but she also sang several operatic roles (Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*, Ortrud in *Lohengrin* and *Aida*) and gave many *lieder* recitals.

After the Second World War she decided to go to London, booking a passage in October 1947. Although she carried a letter of introduction to Sir David Webster, the general administrator of the Covent Garden Opera Company, it was not until a year after her arrival - and after five auditions - that she was engaged, making her debut on 9 December 1948 in *Fidelio*. When the German director Friedrich Schramm heard that she had never appeared on any stage before he said: "Good! All you need to do is to leave your hands at your sides and sing. Let the music speak for itself."

This excellent advice she followed for the rest of her career. Though by now a trifle mature to look convincing as a boy, Sylvia Fisher scored a considerable success as Leonore / *Fidelio*. Her warm-toned, resonant voice was greatly admired, as was her excellent diction (*Fidelio*, like most of the Covent Garden repertoire at that time, was sung in English) and the dignity of her stage bearing. Her other roles during the 1948/49 season were Countess Almaviva in *The Marriage of Figaro* and Third Norn in *Götterdämmerung*.

The following season, by now an established and popular member of the company, Fisher took on three new roles, two of them destined to be among her finest. Her first Marchschallin, though only a sketch of the superb portrayal that she was later to achieve, was none the less interesting.

A gentle, radiantly sung Elsa in *Lohengrin* was followed by



Fisher as Isolde in *Tristan und Isolde*, 1958 Photograph: Houston Rogers Collection / The Theatre Museum

Sieglinde in *Die Walküre*, another characterisation that was to develop with the years until it became a performance worthy to compare with that of the great Lottie Lehmann.

The 1950/51 season opened

with *The Flying Dutchman*, but Senta was never one of her more congenial Wagner roles: her Gutrune in *Götterdämmerung*, though, was more successful.

That season Sylvia Fisher

sang in *Der Rosenkavalier* again, now conducted by Erich Kleiber, and immediately it became clear that a transformation had taken place. Gone was the tentative approach of the previous year; in its place a

new confidence and authority fostered by Kleiber's own love for and intimate knowledge of the score, were added to the womanly warmth and dignified resignation already featured in her characterisation of the Marchschallin.

In 1952 Sylvia Fisher made her Italian debut, singing Sieglinde at the Rome Opera, where Kleiber was again the conductor. She also sang Gutrune in Bologna, native city of her husband, the violinist Ubaldo Gardini, whom she married in 1953.

Meanwhile in January that year Fisher tackled her most ambitious assignment so far: Isolde. First she went to Berlin to study the part with Frieda Leider, one of the greatest Isolde of the previous generation. Although certain critics forecast that the role would be too heavy for her, Sylvia Fisher's Isolde was a great success.

The authority she had gained in singing the Marchschallin with Kleiber now stood her in good stead, especially in the first act, where her vehemence surprised some of those same critics, while in the second-act love duet she surpassed all expectations with the fervour and beauty of her singing. The conductor on that occasion was Sir John Barbirolli.

During the next five seasons Fisher took on seven new roles. Agathe in *Der Freischütz* and Elisabeth in *Tannhäuser* were splendidly sung, but did not make much dramatic impact, perhaps because of the weakness of the productions. Ellen Orford in *Peter Grimes*, though, was a role that might have been written expressly for the Australian soprano, who sang it with great authority. It was the tentative approach of the previous year; in its place a

formance as the Kostelnicka in *Jandek's Jenůfa* and, not for the first time, surprised everyone by the sheer splendour of her singing in the title role of Puccini's *Turandot*, her only Italian part.

Even more surprising was her mastery of a part that she sang on the Covent Garden Company Spring Tour, but never in London. On 13 March 1956 the Theatre Royal, Birmingham was filled with Sylvia Fisher's admirers, who had come to hear her sing her first Brünnhilde in *Die Walküre*; the conductor was Reginald Goodall, and although the consensus of opinion was that Sieglinde remained her finest Wagner role, Fisher's Brünnhilde, ardently sung and characterised with youthful enthusiasm, roused great admiration.

Her last new role at Covent Garden for many years was *Mère Marie* in Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmélites*, another resounding success. Although no longer a member of the company, she returned three times during the next five seasons to sing *Mère Marie*.

In 1958 Fisher returned to Australia to appear with the Elizabethan Theatre Trust in *Peter Grimes* and *Jenůfa*. On her way back to the UK she stopped off at Chicago in November 1959 to sing the Kostelnicka, making her American debut.

Meanwhile a new chapter of her career was opening with the English Opera Group: she sang Lady Billows in *Albert Herring* at Aldeburgh, Mrs Crose in *The Turn of the Screw* and the Female Chorus in *The Rape of Lucretia* at the Edinburgh Festival, and on 23 November 1963, the cent performance in the Royal Festival Hall, given in celebration of the composer's 50th birthday the previous day.

The huge success of this event had equally important consequences. For the first time Britten's *Concerto for Piano and String Orchestra* was recognised as a masterpiece. Three years later a new production was staged at Sadler's Wells and Sylvia Fisher, who had scored a great personal triumph at the Festival Hall concert, again sang *Gloriana*.

The role became the finest achievement of the second half of her career; with each revival her characterisation grew, both in authority and in emotional intensity, culminating in 1972 when *Gloriana* transferred to the London Coliseum, where Sadler's Wells Opera, shortly to become English National Opera, was now based, and was toured to the Theater am Gärtnerplatz in Munich. Fisher also sang the Kabanicha in *Kaya Kabanicha* for ENO, a ghastly terrifying portrait of repressive tyranny.

Her last role at Covent Garden, in 1973, was *Mère Marie*, another study in repression, which she had created in Britten's television opera *Owen Wingrave* two years previously. This performance exists on video and on disc, otherwise Sylvia Fisher is badly represented in the record catalogues. There is a bracing and bossy Lady Billows available in a complete *Albert Herring* and that is about all. Her Marchschallin, her Sieglinde, her Isolde, her Ellen Orford and her *Gloriana* are still vivid in the memory of those lucky enough to have seen and heard them.

Elizabeth Forbes

Sylvia Fisher, opera singer: born Melbourne, 18 April 1910; married 1953 Ubaldo Gardini; died 25 August 1996.

Greg Morris

In the early years of American television, black people were invariably stereotyped in comedy series like *Amos 'n' Andy*. A change occurred in 1965 with the launch of NBC's *I Spy*, the first drama series to star a white actor (Robert Culp) opposite a black one (Bill Cosby). Thirty years on it is hard to imagine the controversy this casting provoked. However, *I Spy* opened the floodgates for a succession of top-rated drama series with black actors playing important featured roles.

Almost overnight, integrated casting ruled the day, though some critics had reservations about the credibility of some of television's new black heroes. Among the most popular black stars of this "new generation" were Nichelle Nichols (*Li Unura* in NBC's *Star Trek*), Hari Rhodes (the African conservationist in CBS's *Daktari*) and Greg Morris as the technical wizard Barney Collier in CBS's *Mission: Impossible* (1966-73).

This series is currently enjoying a rerun on Channel 4 every Sunday morning.

Greg Morris's regular appearances as a member of the team of CIA-like agents in *Mission: Impossible* made a huge impact, and helped to break new ground. Between 1969 and 1972 he was nominated for three Emmy awards as Best Supporting Actor.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Morris attended Ohio State University and the University of Iowa. Moving to Hollywood in the early 1960s, he made appearances on such top-rated

American television drama series as *Twilight Zone*, *Dr Kildare* and *The Fugitive* before finding fame in *Mission: Impossible*.

In a 1963 episode of the medical series *Ben Casey*, Morris gave a memorable performance as a black doctor whose virulent anti-white racism leads to a showdown with Sammy Davis Jr, the star of the drama. This appearance was in sharp contrast to the mild-mannered character he later played in *Mission: Impossible*.

After *Mission: Impossible* ended in 1973, Morris worked regularly in American television, playing guest roles in such major dramatic programmes as *Streets of San Francisco*, *Quincy*, *Roots: The Next Generations* and *The Jesse Owens Story*. He also had a supporting role in the ABC series *Vegas* (1979-81) but his career was interrupted by a serious car accident in 1981.

He did not appear on television again until a short-lived re-

vival of *Mission: Impossible*, which also featured his son Phil, in 1989.

Looking at Greg Morris and Nichelle Nichols in re-runs of *Mission: Impossible* and *Star Trek* on British television, it seems they are the Invisible Man and Woman of television. Neither series makes an issue of their colour. It seems CBS and NBC wanted to avoid race altogether. So Morris and Nichols became isolated characters without any "real" cultural context or African-American identity. But, as Donald Bogle has said of Barney Collier in *Mission: Impossible*: "It's hard not to like or respect the character... in terms of television's tiny evolutionary steps, he is indeed important: a black strong and capable of making decisions."

Stephen Bourne

Greg Morris, actor: born Cleveland, Ohio 27 September 1934; died Las Vegas, Nevada 27 August 1996.



"Resplendently cool": Morris with the cast of *Mission: Impossible*

Photograph: Stephen Bourne

Erskine Childers

Brian Urquhart's obituary of Erskine Childers (29 August) contains an error in stating that Childers' grandfather and namesake was "executed for treason by the British in 1922", writes Nigel Jones.

Childers Sir may have deserved to have been executed by the British for treason; as a former House of Commons clerk and Boer War serviceman he served the Empire faithfully before becoming an Irish republican.

However, he was, in fact, shot by the army of the Irish Free State, during the Irish Civil War (in which he had taken the losing Republican side) for the crime of possessing a small revolver, given to him in happier times by the Free State leader Michael Collins.

Many crimes can be laid against the British in the long, unhappy history of these islands: the execution of Erskine Childers is not one of them.

Synagogue services

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 7.30pm. United Synagogue: 0171-367 4300. Federation of Synagogues: 0181-392 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-686 1663. Reform Synagogue of Great Britain: 0181-349 4751. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-289 2573. New London Synagogue (Masorti): 0171-328 1826.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am. 1st Battalion Irish Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am. Band provided by the Irish Guards.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

RODDAM: On 28 August 1996, born to Carina (nee Cooper) and Franc, a daughter, Siobhán Maud.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 6DL, telephoned on 0171-259 2911 or faxed to 0171-259 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Birthdays

Mr Jonathan Aitken MP, 54; Dr Barbara Aspell, rheumatologist, 73; Miss Elizabeth Ashley, actress, 57; Sir Harold Asherley, former chairman, 73; Sir Patrick Bransigan QC, former Attorney-General, 90; Sir Charles Burnham, former chairman, 88; Mr Allan Davis, actor, director and producer, 53; Mr Kenneth Gill, former trade union leader, 69; Dr Alan Gilmore, former director, NSPCC, 68; Lord Healey CH, former government minister, 79; Air Marshal Sir Frank Holroyd, former Chief Engineer, RAF, 61; Miss Joyce Irving, television presenter, 60; Lord Keith of Castletown, merchant banker, 80; Dr Jeremy Lee-Potter, haematologist, 62; The Countess of Longford, writer, 90; Mr William

McAlister, cultural programme co-ordinator, Soros Foundations, 56; Miss Sue MacGregor, BBC radio presenter, 55; Dr Peter North, Vice-Chancellor, Oxford University, 61; Sir Peter Parker, chairman, Mitsubishi Electric UK, 72; Mr John Peel, disc jockey, 57; Sir Henry Phillips, former colonial administrator, 82; Miss Audrey Scott, former Headmistress, Queen Anne's School, Caversham, 62; Mr George Stevenson MP, 58; Professor John Thoday, geneticist, 80; The Very Rev Professor Thomas Torrance, theologian, 85; Sir Philip Woodfield, former senior civil servant, 73.

Anniversaries

Births: Pedro the Cruel, King of Castile and León, 1334; Jacques-

Louis David, painter, 1748; Bonifacio Asoli, composer and writer on music, 1969; Mary Wellstonecraft Shelley, novelist and creator of Frankenstein's monster, 1797; Adolf Friedrich Hesse, composer, 1809; Joseph Malby Dent, publisher, 1849; Ernest, first Baron Rutherford of Nelson, physicist, 1871; Raymond Massey, actor, 1896; Fred MacMurray, actor, 1908; Joan Blondell, actress, 1909; Deaths: Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt, committed suicide 30 BC; Theodor the Great, King of the Ostrogoths in Italy, 526; Louis XI, King of France, 1483; Francis Baily, astronomer, 1844; Feargus Edward O'Connor, Chartist leader, 1855; Gilbert Abbott à Beckett, comic writer and playwright, 1856; Admiral Sir John Ross, explorer, 1856; John Francis, sculptor, 1861; Dr James Collis Browne, inventor

of "Chlorodyne", 1884; Thomas Thornycroft, sculptor, 1885; George Hughes Sorel, socialist thinker, 1922; Henri Barbusse, novelist and editor, 1935; Sir Joseph John Thomson, physicist, 1940; Lindsay Gordon Anderson, film, television and theatre director, 1944. On this day: Frederick II of Prussia was defeated by the French at Jena-Auerstedt, 1762; the first British train service began, in Birkenhead, 1860; during the American Civil War, the second Battle of Bull Run ended with the defeat of the Union army, 1862; the vacuum cleaner was patented by Hubert Cecil Booth, 1901; Alberta became a province of Canada, 1905; Paul von Hindenburg became chief of the general staff of Germany, 1916; Soviet troops entered Bucharest, Romania, 1944. Today is the Feast Day of St Fancius, Saints Felix and

Adactus, St Margaret Ward, St Pammachius and St Ron or Ramon.

Lectures

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Summer Holidays (v): Vuillard, Lunch at Vaux", 1pm. Tate Gallery: Debra N. Mancoff, "Mysterious Passage: John William Waterhouse's *The Lady of Shalott*", 1pm. National Portrait Gallery (guided tour): "A Variety of Faces: portraiture in the late 20th century", 2.30pm.

Luncheons

Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Mr Jeremy Hanley MP, Minister of State for Foreign and Common-

wealth Affairs, was the host at a lunch held yesterday at Admiralty House, London SW1, in honour of Mr Mohamed Lestir, Tunisian Ambassador.

Wills

William Allman, of Mollington, Chester, left estate valued at £2,216,538 net. George William Mills, of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, left estate valued at £2,158,479 net. Edna Beatrice Hunt, of Radcliffe-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire, left estate valued at £2,005,200 net. Peggy Christine Cole, of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, left estate valued at £2,089,994 net. Margaret Turberville, of Lyngington, Hampshire, left estate valued at £1,115,711 net.

CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Humiliation for Hong Kong investment house as
Save & Prosper is rapped for UK rule breaches

Imro imposes £815,000 fines on Fleming firms

NIC CICUTTI
London
and STEVE VINES
Hong Kong

Jardine Fleming Asset Management, one of the most respected Hong Kong investment houses, was yesterday fined \$400,000 by its regulator and ordered to pay more than £12m compensation for failing to control the rule-breaking activities of one of its fund managers.

Imro, the fund managers' regulator, also fined three fund managers in London, part of Robert Fleming, Jardine Fleming's shareholder, a further £300,000 for their part in the failure.

Jardine Fleming suffered the further humiliation of seeing its chief executive, Robert Thomas, barred from ever acting in a fund management capacity again after he admitted that he bore "ultimate responsibility" for what took place.

In a separate development, Save & Prosper Equity Management, the personal equity plan subsidiary of Robert Fleming, was fined an additional £115,000 and ordered to pay £100,000 compensation for rule breaches in the UK.

Compensation in Hong Kong was ordered by the Securities & Futures Commission, the colony's regulator.

The fines announced yesterday are among the largest to be levied against any financial institution, rivalled only by Imro's £750,000 punishment of Investec in 1990 for its part in the Robert Maxwell pension scandal and a similar fine against Sedgwick in the same year.

Phillip Thorpe, chief executive at Imro, said: "Other firms would be well advised to review their own arrangements relating to delegated functions."

Henry Strutt, managing director of Jardine Fleming Holdings, in which Jardine and Imro are shareholders, said: "We are embarrassed by it."



Paul Bateman: "We are embarrassed by it"

Robert Fleming held a 50 per cent stake. "This has been a painful experience for our group. We very much regret the regulatory breaches."

The failings exposed by the five-month Imro and SFC investigation were also accepted by Robert Fleming Asset Management, which said it regretted the breaches.

Paul Bateman, chairman of the company, said: "We are embarrassed by it, there's no doubt about that."

The disciplinary action resulted from a five-month joint investigation by Imro and the SFC into dealing procedures at Jardine Fleming Investment Management (JFIM) and related companies.

The probe revealed that Colin Armstrong, a former senior fund manager and director of JFIM had engaged in late allocation of deals after changes in the price of the instruments traded had occurred, the SFC said.

His actions had resulted in three accounts managed by JFIM losing money and led to the group agreeing to make voluntary payments totalling \$19.3m to compensate these clients.

Armstrong made "substantial profits from trading in Japanese exchange traded options" for his own account, the SFC said.

Mr Bateman said yesterday that the problem was initially spotted by Jardine Fleming Investment Management in late 1994. It noticed a number of questionable trades carried out by Mr Armstrong. He was unable to fully explain what had taken place.

Part of his activities were related to the management of a small Jardine trust, the Ninja fund, which he managed on behalf of some institutions and individuals.

Investigators found that Mr Armstrong's malpractices had to do with Japanese stock exchange traded options.

Comment, page 17

How a blue-chip fund manager lost its way

STEVE VINES
and NIC CICUTTI

Jardine Fleming is the largest, and in many ways the most successful, mutual fund company in Hong Kong. Its investment management arm, Jardine Fleming Investment Management, manages funds totalling \$2.2bn (£16bn).

The parent company, Jardine Fleming Holdings, was formed in 1970 as a joint venture between the Jardine group, in Hong Kong, and the London-based Robert Fleming.

Jardine Fleming has acquired an international reputation as a market leader in the launch and management of Asia-Pacific funds. It is therefore not surprising that the scandal, now engulfing the company, took place in Hong Kong, where Colin Armstrong, a former senior fund manager and JFIM director, was involved in trading malpractices between 1993 and 1995.

Mr Armstrong, 43, was recruited by Jardine Fleming in 1982 from Scottish Equitable, the Edinburgh life company. After some years in Hong Kong, he moved for a period to Japan, before returning to the colony.

Early this year the markets in Hong Kong and London were buzzing with rumours of misconduct at Jardine Fleming, which soon has an impact on staff morale and customer confidence. They began after Jardine Fleming made a routine report of rule infringements to Imro in November 1995.

Jardine Fleming's suspicions were raised in late 1994, when it became aware that some of Mr Armstrong's trades, and his attempts at reconciliation in the back office, were dubious.

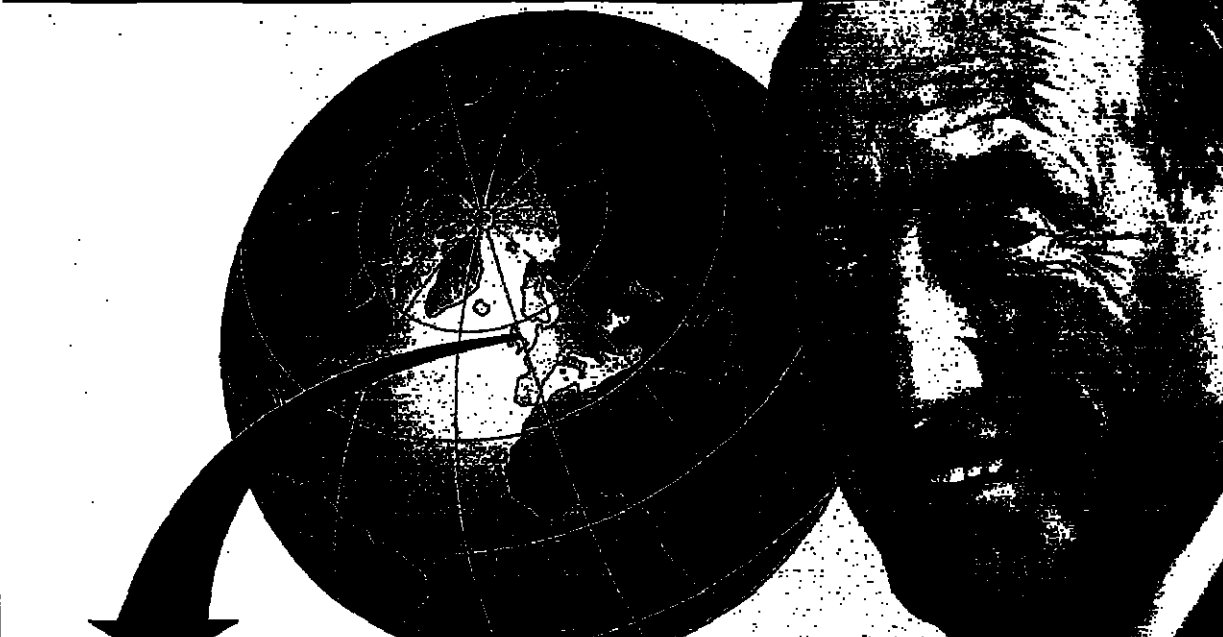
Mr Armstrong was questioned and, according to company sources, failed to give satisfactory answers to the increasingly frantic questions being asked by his employers. However, neither Jardine Fleming, nor Robert Fleming in London, which had extensive dealings with JFIM, raised the matter with its regulator, the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation, until a year after they first got wind that something was seriously amiss.

Imro contacted the Securities & Futures Commission in Hong Kong and a more detailed investigation revealed massive regulatory failures.

Mr Armstrong, operating on behalf of JFIM in Hong Kong, was only allocating deals on behalf of the company's customers after favourable price movements had made it possible for him to make a profit in his own account out of deals where gains were made before the orders were executed on behalf of the clients.

JFIM said yesterday that it was repaying the money illegally paid out of its own pocket by Mr Armstrong from his own personal assets. Mr Armstrong is now back in London.

MILLENNIUM PUTS GRIMSBY ON THE MAP



TEN THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT GRIMSBY

- 1 People who hail from Grimsby are known as Grimsbians.
- 2 Grimsby boasts the outspoken Euro-sceptic Labour MP, Austin Mitchell, who this week compared Tony Blair's leadership style to that of medieval North Korean leader Kim Il Sung.
- 3 Grimsby claims to have Europe's biggest concentration of food production, cold storage and technical expertise. Birds Eye and Blue Crest are among the town's big name companies.
- 4 The smell. Apparently this has more to do with food processing than fish. Visitors often complain about it.
- 5 According to business information service Dun and Bradstreet International, the town has the highest proportion of profitable companies in the UK at 89.5 per cent.
- 6 Norman Lamont's mum, Irene, lives in Grimsby. In 1993 she broke the story of her son's ousting as Chancellor of the Exchequer, spilling the beans to Clare Henderson, a trainee reporter on The Grimsby Evening Telegraph.
- 7 Elton John once wrote a song with Bernie Taupin called "Grimsby".
- 8 Grimsby has one of the UK's best museums, which is dedicated to the fishing industry and has been voted one of the best educational tourist sites in the UK.
- 9 Football. Grimsby has a decent First Division team, nicknamed the Mariners. In 1989 they got to the fifth round of the FA Cup.
- 10 Earlier this year Grimsby player-manager Brian Laws was involved in a bust-up with Ivano Bonetti which left the Italian

Grimsby achieves tax haven status for Hanson

PATRICK TOOHER

Hanson, the conglomerate in the throes of breaking itself up, yesterday sought to play down the significance of one of its merged businesses being managed from Grimsby - even though the company will be registered and headquartered in the US.

Although most of its plant and 6,700 staff are located across the pond, Millennium Chemicals will have to be controlled from Britain for the next five years for tax purposes.

The company will be forced to hold its board meetings in the UK and to maintain a British executive office - and the only one it has is near Grimsby.

"We're not putting Grimsby on the map," claimed Hanson's Christopher Collins. "It is already on it as far as we are concerned with the large titanium dioxide plant we have at nearby Stallingborough."

He added that Millennium's board meetings would "almost invariably" be held in the UK.

Millennium is incorporated in Delaware, will pay American tax rates and its shares will only be listed in New York. But the Inland Revenue will only allow the British-registered Hanson to spin off Millennium, Imperial Tobacco and its Energy Group without paying tax if management and control remain in Britain for at least five years.

Mr Collins pointed out that not all Millennium's directors would be inconvenienced by the unusual arrangement as three of the board, including former Home Secretary Kenneth Baker, are British. He also acknowledged that it could act as a poison pill for potential bidders.

He might also have added that Hanson's connections with the famous fishing port are far from tenuous. One of its co-founders, the late Lord White, was a life peer of Hull, just across the Humber estuary.

The US executives, led by William Landy, the chairman and Robert E Lee, Millennium's president, will be amply rewarded for their regional transatlantic trips. Free shares worth around \$60m (£38.5m) will be distributed among 30 of the most senior Millennium executives under a remuneration package.

According to the listing particulars, Mr Landy will be entitled to free shares worth up to \$10m under the long-term stock incentive plan. He gets a quarter of the shares automatically, but will only earn the maximum if certain performance targets, set by Millennium's remuneration committee, are met. Last year Mr Landy's basic pay rose by 15 per cent to \$780,000.

Mr Lee will be entitled to free shares worth up to \$7m under the incentive plan. He already makes \$490,000 a year.

The comments came as T&N reported a slump in profits from £73.2m to £58.1m in the six months to June, hit by de-stocking costs and redundancy charges.

T&N warns on £50m asbestos claims

MAGNUS GRIMOND

T&N warned yesterday that it could have to pay out £50m in new asbestos claims if it failed to overturn a recent US court ruling. The courts decided that a multi-million pound industry-wide settlement with claimants was illegal.

The news yesterday sparked renewed fears that the group, which formerly at Turner & Newall was one of the world's biggest asbestos manufacturers, could face a flood of legal claims. Along with the announcement of lower than expected profits yesterday, the shares dropped 8.5p to 135p.

The potential new charge, which would double this year's provisions for asbestos, stems from May's decision by the Third Circuit of the US Court of Appeals that the so-called Georgine settlement, reached in 1994 between asbestos victims and 20 asbestos companies, failed to meet the criteria of a class action.

The companies, grouped under the Center for Claims Resolution, have appealed to the US Supreme Court, but Sir Colin Hope, the T&N chairman who is to drop his executive duties, warned yesterday that if the court declined to hear the appeal "Georgine will fall away in seven days".

He believed they had the basis of an appeal, given that other courts had come to a contrary conclusion. If the Supreme Court gave the green light, it is likely to hear an appeal in the middle of next year. "In the meantime, there is a howl of cases of individuals who are ready to turn their cases into tort cases if Georgine falls away."

Many of them were likely to prove "questionable", he said, but T&N would still have to make an additional provision. "Our best estimate is that by October, we would need an extra £50m on costs, but I would stress that is a best guess, not a forecast."

The comments came as T&N reported a slump in profits from £73.2m to £58.1m in the six months to June, hit by de-stocking costs and redundancy charges.

Investment Column, page 16

Ladbroke deal reunites Hilton hotels

PATRICK TOOHER

The City yesterday gave the thumbs-up to a worldwide alliance between leisure group Ladbroke and the Hilton Hotels Corp of the US that finally reunites the famous Hilton hotel brand after 32 years of separation.

"It's a terrific deal," said Paul Slattery at broker Kleinwort Benson. "It is far more extensive than we thought, covering gaming as well as hotels, and gives Ladbroke more flexibility than we imagined."

The stock market agreed, sending Ladbroke's shares 3.5p higher to 209.5p and making them one of the best-performing blue chips of the day.

At present Hilton Hotels Corp owns the Hilton name in the United States while Ladbroke holds the rights everywhere else through its Hilton International (HIC) subsidiary.

In the new alliance grouping 400 hotels in 49 countries, both companies intend to co-operate from next year on sales and marketing, loyalty programmes and hotel development.

Under the terms of the outline deal, Hilton Hotels Corp will take a 5 per cent stake in Ladbroke on completion early next year. A reciprocal standstill agreement allows the American group to increase its holding in Ladbroke to a maximum of 20 per cent.

In return, Ladbroke can take up to 20 per cent participation in HIC's hotel and gaming developments in the US.

"We are putting our money where our mouth is," said Stephen Bollenbach, HHC's president and chief executive officer. "This alliance gives us the critical mass to lead the global hotel industry."

Peter George, Ladbroke's chief executive, revealed that a full-scale merger or a joint venture had been considered, but they opted for the alliance.

The two men said the deal could be worth tens of millions of dollars when cost savings and extra sales were combined, but the benefits were unlikely before 1998.

Mr George will join the HHC board while Mr Bollenbach will become a director of Ladbroke.

The alliance provides for the formation of a jointly owned company to market and develop the Hilton brand around the world. HHC's guest loyalty programme, which has 5 million members, will be extended worldwide. The companies will also participate in each other's future hotel developments.

The Hilton brand was separated in 1964 when Hilton International was spun off from the American operation. Ladbroke acquired Hilton International in 1987.

News of the Hilton deal came as Ladbroke announced first-half pre-tax profits of £72.5m before exceptional items, a 29 per cent increase on last year.

Investment Column, page 16

Daily Mail may set up 'lifestyle' TV channel

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Daily Mail & General Trust, the media giant controlled by Lord Rothmans, is in negotiations with BSkyB to develop a television channel for broadcast on satellite, it emerged last night.

The move marks the first potential association between DMGT and BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster owned 40 per cent by Rupert Murdoch that dominates the £1.3bn pay-television market in the UK.

Dubbed Daily Mail TV, the service would be aimed at a largely female audience and would focus on lifestyle themes. DMGT, which publishes the Daily Mail, the Mail on Sunday and the Evening Standard, is already a major pay-television broadcaster through its City-TV format Channel One.

The new service, which DMGT hopes will emulate the mid-market appeal of the Daily Mail, would be introduced as part of BSkyB's multi-channel package on digital satellite, due to be launched at the end of 1997. It would join other services such as pay-per-view movies and sport and general entertainment channels, as well as interactive programming.

Existing channels in BSkyB's analogue package would also be transmitted on the digital service. BSkyB has been in negotiations with other channels about providing carriage once the digital service is launched.

DMGT's television strategy has been developed by Sir David English, chief executive of Associated Newspapers, DMGT's publishing arm. The company intends to continue rolling out its City-TV format under the direction of Julian Aston, head of Channel One.

There are no plans to seek digital satellite carriage for Channel One, which is one of two "cornerstone" services available only on cable. Both Channel One and Live TV, owned by the Mirror Group, are paid well over the market average for their services - as much as 25p a subscriber, according to industry estimates.

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Sir David English developed DMGT's television strategy

Abbey sent wrong letters to 40,000

NIC CICUTTI

More than 100,000 Abbey National mortgage borrowers are to be sent letters of apology after a computer blunder led to them being sent statements with wrong repayment details.

The scale of the error, in which tens of thousands of homes in the South-east and South-west of England were sent false statements, was only spotted yesterday.

The Abbey initially claimed only 100 or so borrowers, some of whom received statements telling them they were liable for payments up to 50 per cent larger than before, had been affected by the mistake.

One Abbey National borrower, who declined to be named, said: "My letter said I would have to pay £230 a month instead of the £150 I was expecting."

"It was not so bad for me, but if I had been an old lady getting my statement, I might have had a heart attack."

A bank spokesman said the problem appeared to have happened at one of the computer and printing centres to which the Abbey sub-contracts its work. The centre was sent spools with details of the mortgage rate reductions that are being implemented for all its borrowers from 1 September.

"The spool with the information broke and a number of wrong letters were sent out," the spokeswoman said. "Initially, it was thought that only 100 or so customers might have been affected." A further audit revealed the scale of the problem.

Although Abbey National now believes 40,000 customers may have been affected, fresh letters would be sent out to all borrowers on that print run. The cost of the fresh mailing will be met by the printer.

Separately, Abbey's issue of ECU 55m (£45m) of bonds went on sale yesterday at an issue price of 101.5 to yield 6.488 per cent.

Interest will be paid at a rate of 5.75 per cent until 15 October 2000, and 8 per cent thereafter until 2004.

Lead manager to the issue is Kreditbank, and co-lead managers are Generale Bank, IMI Bank, Norddeutsche Landesbank and Girozentrale.

STOCK MARKETS									
FT-SE 100			Dow Jones			Nikkei			
3885.00	-33.70	-0.9	3918.70	3632.30	4.03	21600	-100	-0.5	21600
3885.00	-33.70	-0.9	3918.70	3632.30	4.03	21600	-100	-0.5	21600
3885.00	-33.70	-0.9	3918.70	3632.30	4.03	21600	-100	-0.5	21600
3885.00	-33.70	-0.9	3918.70	3632.30	4.03	21600	-100	-0.5	21600
3885.00	-33.70	-0.9	3918.70	3632.30	4.03	21600	-100	-0.5	21600
3885.00	-33.70	-0.9	3918.70	3632.30	4.03	21600	-100	-0.5	21600
3885.00	-33.70	-0.9	3918.70	3632.30	4.03	21600	-100	-0.5	21600
3885.00	-33.70	-0.9	3918.70	3632.30	4.03	21600	-100	-0.5	21600
3885.00	-33.70	-0.9	3918.70	3632.30	4.03	21600	-100	-0.5	21600

INTEREST RATES									
Short sterling			UK medium gilt			US long bond			
6.25	-0.01	-0.16	6.25	-0.01	-0.16	7.25	-0.01	-0.16	7.25
6.25	-0.01	-0.16	6.25	-0.01	-0.16	7.25	-0.01	-0.16	7.25
6.25	-0.01	-0.16	6.25	-0.01	-0.16	7.25	-0.01	-0.16	7.25
6.25	-0.01	-0.16	6.25	-0.01	-0.16	7.25	-0.01	-0.16	7.25
6.25	-0.01	-0.16	6.25	-0.01	-0.16	7.25	-0.01	-0.16	7.25
6.25	-0.01	-0.16	6.25	-0.01	-0.16	7.25	-0.01	-0.16	7.25
6.25	-0.01	-0.16	6.25	-0.01	-0.16	7.25	-0.01	-0.16	7.25
6.25	-0.01	-0.16	6.25	-0.01	-0.16	7.25	-0.01	-0.16	7.25
6.25	-0.01	-0.16	6.25	-0.01	-0.16	7.25	-0.01	-0.16	7.25

CURRENCIES									
£/\$			£/DM			£/¥			
100 £/\$ 1.5874 100 £/DM 1.5874 100 £/¥ 1.5874 100 £/\$ 1.5874 100 £/DM 1.5874 100 £/¥ 1.5874			100 £/DM 1.5874 100 £/\$ 1.5874 100 £/¥ 1.5874 100 £/\$ 1.5874 100 £/DM 1.5874 100 £/¥ 1.5874			100 £/¥ 1.5874 100 £/\$ 1.5874 100 £/DM 1.5874 100 £/\$ 1.5874 100 £/DM 1.5874 100 £/¥ 1.5874			
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*After New York exchange rates and US Dollar September 4, 1997 issue.									
Pound			Dollar						
	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago		Yesterday	Change	Year Ago		
\$ (London)	1.5874	-0.19%	1.5481	£ (London)	0.6421	+0.02%	0.6455		
£ (N York)	1.5874	unch	1.5485	£ (N York)	0.6410	unch	0.6454		
DM (London)	2.3054	+0.37%	2.2753	DM (London)	1.8402	+0.47%	1.4985		
¥ (London)	168.417	±0.21%	151.739	¥ (London)	168.404	±0.00%	97.9500		
£ (N York)	85.0	unch	84.9	£ (N York)	85.1	+0.1	94.4		
OTHER INDICATORS									
	Yesterday	Day's Chg	Year Ago		Index	Latest Yr Ago	Next Figs		
Oil Brent \$	20.25	-0.20	16.25	RPI	152.4 +2.2pc	149.8	12 Sep		
Gold \$	388.06	-0.45	393.30	GDP	107.8 +0.4%	128.9	24 Sep		
Gold £	244.16	-0.01	247.42	Base Rates	-5.750%	5.75	—		

business

Ladbroke is worth betting on

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Ladbroke's historic co-operation deal with Hilton Hotels Corporation of the US drew most of the limelight yesterday, but the leisure and hotels group also had a good story to tell about trading so far this year. Half-year figures were far better than the City was expecting, prompting analysts to raise their 1996 forecasts and dealers to push the shares 3.5p higher at 209.5p.

But the 29 per cent rise in pre-tax profits in the six months to June was more than just impressive. It could embarrass the group now led by chief executive Peter George. Since the onset of the National Lottery in 1994, Ladbroke and the rest of the gaming industry have complained about its impact on their betting businesses and have lobbied the Government for concessions to level the playing field.

In particular, instant-win scratchcards were held up as the great Satan that threatened the ruin of thousands of betting shops, where Ladbroke is the biggest operator, and the decimation of the pools industry.

The initial effect of the Lottery was dramatic. Betting turnover, especially on horses, fell off a cliff, thousands lost their jobs as the industry cut costs to compete, and Ladbroke's shares crashed to a low of 123p. But given the 17 per cent rise in profits to £43.6m in the betting and gaming division in the latest six months, the novelty of scratchcards has clearly worn off.

Several other factors have also worked in Ladbroke's favour. Although retail betting turnover fell £15m to £885m, profits advanced, thanks to the 1 percentage point reduction in betting duty to 9 per cent, lower overhead costs and the introduction of betting on the Irish lottery.

The Euro '96 football championships also helped, bringing in about £5m of extra profits. Hotels gained about £2m from visiting football fans, while a series of draws and England's defeat at the hands of Germany in the semi-final netted Ladbroke another £3m on the betting side.

All this means Ladbroke has slightly less ammunition to shoot with as it continues campaigning for more concessions from Whitehall, including allowing betting on the UK lottery.

Nevertheless, Ladbroke has turned the corner. Net debt continues to fall as the property portfolio is unwound and now stands at less than half of shareholders' funds. The hotels market around the world remains buoyant, especially in the UK. And the potential benefits of unifying the Hilton brand name add plenty of spice.

Only the decision to hold the dividend suggests Ladbroke is treading

warily. Kleinwort Benson's top-of-the-range forecasts look for pre-tax profits of £170m rising to £215m the next year, implying a p/e ratio of 20 falling to 15. Good value.

Reckitt defies the City sceptics

Reckitt & Colman, the disinfectant to cough cures group, was in chipper mood yesterday. In defiance of City sceptics who wondered at the logic behind the ambitious global strategy being pursued by chief executive Vernon Sankey, the integration of last year's £1bn acquisition of L&F Household, maker of America's leading disinfectant, is proceeding ahead of plan.

The promised £400m disposal target over three years has been beaten in under two, with the recent sale of Brazilian pigments and the German Schülke & Mayr hospital disinfectants operation taking total proceeds to £432m. On top of that, cost savings of £40m in the US this year are on target, even if reaping

the full £25m savings from Reckitt's existing European businesses appears to have been delayed until 1998.

Figures for the half year to 29 June, unveiled yesterday, carried few surprises, but the improved sentiment helped drive the shares 3p higher to 684.5p. Headline pre-tax profits slumped from £316m to £179m, but the figures were distorted by disposals, mainly last year's £167m profit on the sale of Colman's mustard and Robinsons soft drinks brands. Stripping out the funnies, underlying profits rose 10 per cent to £165m.

Reckitt has made progress raising margins, which have risen from 15.8 to 16.5 per cent at the operating level, and there should be more to come. The combined US business is operating with the same number of people as the group had before the acquisition. Synergy benefits are running at £31m, and the forecast £40m should be easily beaten.

But Reckitt still has its work cut out to convince doubters who point to the sluggish top-line growth, with sales up from £1.11bn to £1.16bn representing underlying growth of 5 per cent. The European market for household products remains intensely competitive, with

prescription pharmaceuticals the only bright spot. Meanwhile, underlying sales growth of 7 per cent in North America was not as good as it looked, given the destocking there last year.

Once the restructuring benefits peter out next year, Reckitt will need to prove it can deliver real underlying growth outside Asia. Full-year profits of £318m would put the shares on a forward multiple of 14. Fairly rated.

T&N cloud has a silver lining

T&N was in the dogbox again yesterday, but for once it was not just the cloud of asbestos liabilities which overhangs the pistons to brake linings group that caused the anxiety for investors. The market had been expecting bad news as the old Turner & Newall struggled to cope with sluggish automotive sales in the US and destocking among its customers.

Even so, profits before tax, cut from £73.2m to £58.1m in the six months to June, were below expectations. Analysts were wrongfooted by a £6m-£7m hit for destocking plus a charge for redundancies that roughly doubled to £8.1m in the half-year. Full-year forecasts tumbled yesterday as a result, with UBS knocking £20m off to leave its at £110m. The shares dropped 8.5p to 135p.

But to be fair, the latest costs should represent an investment for the future. T&N has been working to reduce its gearing, which was 78 per cent in June 1995. Disposals have pulled in over £200m in the past 18 months and strenuous efforts by management have squeezed £26m out of stocks in the continuing businesses over the 12 months to June. Together, that has helped cut gearing to a level of 47 per cent.

The trouble is that T&N's stock reduction efforts have come at a bad time, with its customers also cutting their inventories. The resulting fall in throughput has hit factory efficiencies and the comparison is made worse by a period last year when T&N was barely keeping up with demand. Although the short-term outlook for the European market is murky, the US is picking up.

There are also grounds for optimism on asbestos. T&N is suggesting the extra cost if it fails the latest legal challenge could be £50m, a chunky sum, but one which pales against the £350m shelved out over the past 10 years.

On a forward p/e of 11, it remains a steal for those willing to brave any more asbestos shocks.

Flirt outrageously and watch productivity soar

CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK

Vienna is to host the world's first flirt-for-profit seminar.

Psychologist Brigitte Boesenkopf tells *The European* that flirting should be "a vital part of any healthy company, increasing productivity and sales and improving the social climate and customer relations."

Even for Freud's home city, this sounds pretty off the wall. Respectable Austrian businesses are keen though. Those signing up for the seminar include Raiffeisen Bank and the Bundesländer Insurance Company.

Ms Boesenkopf says: "My seminars analyse for the first time the connection between flirting and economic strategies for success. Well-aimed flirt behaviour is one of the best tools for communications at work. Up to now a flirt was seen as a taboo in business life. This is a mistake."

"Due to spatial proximity, people automatically make contact. The well-being at your job to a large extent depends on whether these contacts are satisfying."

The seminar has provoked much protest in Austria, but Ms Boesenkopf denies she is defending sexual harassment. Even so, I think it will be some time before the likes of ICI and Lloyds TSB start promoting office love-ins.

Barclays Bank is offering "crack" to students.

Not the drug, I hasten to add. Barclays is running a student competition in which the top five winners will each get £2,500. The press release says: "Students can enter by picking up a 'crack' and reveal card from Barclays stands at Freshers Fairs throughout the country."

Whatever next? Scratch 'n' Sniff cards?

Where the fall-out from the Barings saga is concerned, the Securities and Futures



John Jackson, chairman of Ladbroke, has issued an open invitation to journalists - and readers - to design a new Hilton logo. With the imminent realisation of the American side, Hilton International (bottom), a new global corporate identity is needed. Who knows, with the kind of money people like Shell and BP pay out for new logos, you could strike lucky.

Association (SFA) is taking no chances. Ron Baker, the former Barings director, is appealing against the SFA's finding that he shares some responsibility for the Leeson fiasco which broke the bank.

Now the SFA has retained Presley Baxendale, the barrister who came to prominence in the arms-to-Iraq investigation, to head the case against Mr Baker.

Mr Baker will need a deep pocket indeed to appoint an equally distinguished barrister for the SFA's Tribunal hearing in the autumn.

Eddie George has allowed the finals of the latest UK Monopoly championship to be played in the Bank of England's own hallowed halls, with real money supplied by the Bank. Before an outraged Ken Clarke gets on the phone to complain about property speculation at the taxpayers' expense, I should point out that the £1,500 handed to each of the six fi-

nalists was returned at the close of play last night.

Three chaps from Lloyds Bank acted as bankers for the games. The finals will be completed today in the House of Commons.

Patrick O'Reilly, the personable stockbroker, has left Panmure Gordon to join rival brokers Charterhouse, and one Panmure client which he floated in 1985 has followed him. The £350m plastic pipe maker PolyPIPE has switched to Charterhouse because of the company's admiration for O'Reilly, says PolyPIPE chairman Kevin McDonald.

Germans beware. Vernon Sankey, Reckitt & Colman's chief executive, is pleased to announce that the company's most recent brand acquisition, a disinfectant called Pit Pat, is the market leader in the Middle East, number two in China, and top in Kenya and West Africa.

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Aesco Corp (Q)	78.6m (30.2m)	1.7m (2.1m)	8.7p (10.1p)	2.0p (1.5p)
Astonor (Q)	16m (-)	-0.7m (-0.9m)	-1.23p (-1.33p)	nil (-)
Avantis (Q)	23.3m (32.3m)	2.4m (1.7m)	3.75p (3.25p)	3.75p (3.25p)
Baileys Hunter (F)	58.4m (420m)	3.26m (0.95m)	21.8p (4.5p)	10.7p (10.2p)
Calson Energy (Q)	16.8m (5.1m)	2.51m (7.89m)	2.73p (7.72p)	- (-)
Carlworth (Q)	34.9 (38.6m)	4.96m (2.28m)	7.1p (7.3p)	2.1p (nil)
CrashCars (Q)	21.5m (21.8m)	2.62m (2.59m)	1.0p (1.0p)	0.3p (-)
Darby Group (F)	9.5m (9.2m)	0.8m (4.1m)	2.37p (2.19p)	1.0p (0.8p)
Demash Hatter (F)	25.7m (21.7m)	4.22m (3.41m)	8.35p (6.53p)	2.88p (-)
Gibbs & Donohy (F)	14.3m (13.4m)	0.50m (0.48m)	4.3p (4.2p)	1.5p (1.4p)
Hemera Countrywide (F)	91.1m (73.8m)	10.5m (5.8m)	2.41p (-1.92p)	0.5p (-)
Irish Continental (F)	45.9m (39.4m)	-1.94m (-3.17m)	-7.4p (-12.6p)	1.8p (1.5p)
Isomir (F)	9.7m (8.8m)	3.75m (2.25m)	30.2p (17.3p)	3.75p (-)
Kelco Group (F)	27.7m (115m)	19.8m (11.6m)	3.7p (4.7p)	1.7p (1.8p)
Keller Group (F)	115.4m (110m)	4.5m (4.33m)	4.70p (4.40p)	1.95p (1.75p)
Ladbroke (F)	1.98m (2.13m)	72.8m (99.5m)	4.53p (3.73p)	2.4p (2.4p)
Lopez (F)	57.5m (64.9m)	1.54m (82m)	1.95p (0.78p)	0.30p (-)
Papagos (F)	3.73m (3.0m)	0.51m (0.17m)	6.5p (1.8p)	2.0p (2.0p)
Pave Financial (F)	210m (220m)	47.9m (41.1m)	11.77p (10.25p)	6.5p (5.5p)
Reckitt & Colman (F)	1.18m (1.18m)	179.0m (316.4m)	29.7p (63.1p)	7.95p (7.35p)
Rails-Hervey (F)	1.9m (1.61m)	-169.0m (70.0m)	-12.27p (4.33p)	2.0p (2.0p)
Reckitt (F)	33.19m (28.12m)	0.64m (1.36m)	1.69p (5.73p)	1.3p (1.3p)
Slough Estates (Q)	109m (88.6m)	37.4m (32.8m)	5.7p (4.9p)	3.25p (3.1p)
Stevens (F)	63.0m (49.0m)	-4.3m (3.0m)	-14.2p (14.2p)	5.2p (-)
Survey First Home (F)	12.8m (11.5m)	1.18m (0.81m)	11.6p (8.4p)	2.25p (1.8p)
Swanlight (F)	22.2m (20.7m)	0.96m (0.46m)	0.15p (0.06p)	nil (-)
T&N (F)	1.05m (1.05m)	58.1m (73.2m)	10.1p (12.3p)	3.0p (3.0p)
UK Safety (F)	15.5m (14.27)	0.31m (-0.05m)	0.61p (4.13p)	nil (-)
Vision Action (F)	43.8m (36.8m)	3.56m (2.91m)	6.28p (5.75p)	1.2p (-)
Wolfe Smith (F)	2.82m (2.82m)	-195m (115m)	-71.4p (29.3p)	15.85p (15.85p)
Whitcross Group (F)	1.64m (0.94m)	-0.11m (-0.26p)	0.13p (-3.0p)	nil (-)

F - Final (F) - Interim (Q) - Nine months

THE INDEPENDENT

Win a Historic Break

Three atmospheric country house hotels in West Sussex, the Elizabethan Ockenden Manor in Cuckfield, the Spread Eagle Hotel, a 15th Century coaching inn in Midhurst and Bailiffscourt, a mediaeval folly in Climping are offering Independent readers the chance to win a luxurious break including two nights and accommodation, breakfast and dinner on one night for 3 couples.



If you don't win why not book a 2 night special break from £20 per person with dinner, bed and breakfast.

For further information on Ockenden Manor Tel: 01444 418 111.

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0891 161 945

Call cost 30p/min. Cheapest rate: 40p/min. All other times. Winner picked at random after lunch close 30th August 96. Usual Newspaper Publishing rules apply. Editor's decision is final. Prize subject to availability.

Perpetual to vote against Refuge merger

NIC CICCITI

Perpetual, a leading shareholder in Refuge Assurance, said yesterday it would vote against the proposed £1.4bn merger of the door-to-door insurer with United Friendly.

The decision by Perpetual to come off the fence after refusing in recent days to say which way it will vote poses a serious threat to the merger plans.

Institutional shareholders

with up to 15 per cent of shares in Refuge, including Perpetual's 7 per cent stake, are now set to vote against the deal at the shareholder meeting on 9 September. Other institutions have yet to decide what line to take.

Some shareholders are understood to have discussed the possibility of closing Refuge to new funds, arguing that they stand to get better value if new business acquisition costs are stripped out of the insurer.

Neil Woodford, income fund manager at Perpetual, said: "I have had time to consider further the terms of the merger since our meeting with Refuge and United Friendly last week. Unfortunately, I am not convinced that it offers the best deal to shareholders. There are still a lot of unanswered questions regarding 'orphan assets' belonging to shareholders."

"I am also aware of the argument that the company may

be worth more dead than alive. I must say that it sounds too much like asset-stripping to me. But it is a measure of how some shareholders feel."

Mr Woodford's comments follow a two-hour discussion last week with John Cudworth, Refuge chief executive, and George Mack, United Friendly's finance director and chief executive-designate, in the merged insurer.

The merger between both or-

ganisations which sell life and pensions products door-to-door, primarily to working-class families, was announced in July.

The wrangle between Perpetual and Refuge centres on the exact proportion of so-called "orphan assets" which is attributable to shareholders before the merger with United Friendly takes place. The fund managers' argument is also based on arguments over the value of Refuge's pension fund

and how much of its surplus shareholders are entitled to.

Laurie Magnus, a director at Phoenix Securities, the corporate financiers that are acting for Refuge, said: "I understand it is being argued the merger has been brought about in haste. Refuge has been in discussions with United Friendly for six months. Refuge has been in talks with the Department of Trade and Industry [over orphan assets] for 18 months."

Kepit tells investors to ignore Treg offer

NIC CICCITI

The battle for control of the £500m Kleinwort Benson European Privatisation Investment Trust flared again yesterday after the fund's directors broke cover to tell shareholders they should ignore a bid by TR European Growth, a leading contender.

Shane Ross, chairman of the Kleinwort fund (Kepit) wrote yesterday to its 65,000 shareholders urging them not to accept the improved offer from TR European (Treg) until his board had considered all other options.

Mr Ross said the Treg offer's value was "wholly uncertain" because it meant liquidating Kepit's assets at a heavy discount to market prices, with shareholders bearing the costs of the liquidation and fees to Treg's advisers.

He added that Kepit directors, along with advisers Merrill Lynch, were studying details of all the 10 expressions of interest to see which was most suitable.

But his letter drew a further attack from Treg, which accused the Kepit board of "re-arranging the deckchairs on the Titanic" instead of rescuing shareholders in Kepit. Treg claimed its hotline has received more than 500 calls in the past few days, most of them backing its bid.

James de Sausmarez, retail managing director at Henderson, Treg's manager, said the Kepit board had failed to come up with any alternatives to Treg's bid: "On that basis, their response is inadequate. What we are saying to the Kepit chairman and the board is that it should produce a single detailed proposal to shareholders that offers 100 per cent cash to them."

When they said this job had its risky moments...



Taking the plunge: More than 60 risk managers from Sedgwick UK Risk Services absconded from the top of their building in London's Aldgate to raise money for the homeless charity Crisis

IN BRIEF

• The Bank of England's chief economist, Mervyn King, said the UK inflation target had not achieved credibility. This meant interest rates ought not to respond too much to variations in growth, he argued in a paper presented to a conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Monetary policy had to take account of the fact that it took time for people to learn that the authorities meant what they said about keeping inflation on target. Separately, Howard Davies, the Bank's deputy governor, told a conference in Austria it would not be necessary for countries remaining outside the single European currency to join a new version of the exchange rate mechanism. Sticking to an inflation target would do just as well in preventing unacceptably large devaluations of currencies that stayed out, he said.

• Lawyers for former Australian businessman Alan Bond have lodged an appeal against his conviction and three-year jail sentence for art fraud. Bond was jailed by Judge Antonette Kennedy after a jury convicted him of four charges relating to the sale of the French impressionist painting, *La Promenade*, by Edouard Manet.

• Disney/ABC International has signed a 10-year exclusive agreement to supply pay-television and pay-per-view programming to the Kirch Group in Germany. The deal will provide a boost to DF1, the pay-television platform owned 51 per cent by Kirch and 49 per cent by BSkyB. Rupert Murdoch's UK satellite broadcaster, and will displace Bertelsmann, Kirch's rival, which has had a close relationship with Disney through their Super RTL television venture.

• Kelvin MacKenzie, chief executive of Live TV, will spend up to four days a month advising Telewest, the cable company, on its marketing strategy. Mirror Group, Live TV's owners, said: "It is in our interests to see that the cable industry is given a push." David Montgomery, chief executive of Mirror Group, said: "If Kelvin can assist them, it assists us." Live TV is a cable-exclusive City TV network, owned 10 per cent by a group of the leading cable operators.

• The London Stock Exchange has censured Clondalkin Group for "very serious" breaches of the Listing Rules of the LSE in the listing of a circular to shareholders on 31 May. The circular gave information upon the proposed acquisition by Clondalkin of the Van der Windt Group, a group of companies based in Holland. Under the Listing Rules of the Stock Exchange, shareholders approval was required for this transaction, in view of its size.

• BAT Industries expects to continue to be embroiled in US tobacco liability litigation for several years, but does not see any significant financial impact on the company, according to chairman Lord Cairns. "The litigious framework in the US means that we will see continuing activity in the court rooms of America," he said in a letter to shareholders. "This litigation is not relevant to the great majority of the group's tobacco markets and does not affect at all the interest of our financial services businesses."

• J Sainsbury is "on track" to achieve 2.3 per cent sales growth after the launch of its Reward loyalty card in June, a spokeswoman said. She declined to say when Sainsbury expected to achieve the hike in revenues. Sainsbury said at the time of the launch of the card that it needed 2.3 per cent sales growth to cover the costs.



COMMENT

'In theory, nothing is sacred. The logic of the process is that everything should go, leaving the BBC as no more than a cyberspace organisation - a collector and spender of the licence fee'

Auntie could outsource herself out of existence

You can see why John Birt, director-general of the BBC, likes to dream of turning Auntie into what he calls the "virtual corporation". The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary defines the word virtual as meaning "in essence or effect although not formally or actually". To be director-general of any company "in essence or effect although not formally or actually" is to define the perfect executive job - power without responsibility, all the fun of decision-making without any of the hard graft or day to day unpleasantness of managing. As director-general of the BBC it would be very heaven. The job would be reduced (or elevated depending on your point of view) to that of programme selection, scheduling, budget control, strategy and general cocktail party leader.

There is no reason why Mr Birt should stop at resource management. The transmission system will be gone shortly and 35 per cent of programming is already contracted out. Why not go the whole hog and contract out the lot? In theory, nothing is sacred. The logic of the process is that everything should go, leaving the BBC as no more than a cyberspace organisation - a collector and spender of the licence fee.

If you can "outsource" the basic resources of the BBC, why not also contract out its news, current affairs and chat shows. Why eventually you might be able to outsource the director general himself.

To be fair on Mr Birt, his dream of the

virtual corporation merely reflects the current management fashion. "Outsourcing", as EDS's extraordinary growth in the US and Britain amply demonstrates, is now big business and there are few industries completely untouched by it. Even the sleepy old life assurance industry is waking up to the potential savings and advantages of shared, arms length administrative facilities.

The attractions are obvious and alluring. Time consuming, costly support and administrative infrastructure is put in the hands of someone else, who because this is their business, can do it better and for a lower price. The company is thus freed to concentrate on what it does best, whether it be selling insurance, making motor cars, or in this case, producing TV and radio programmes.

The other advantage is that it divorces the company from difficult and awkward management decisions and tasks, the downsizing and reform of working practices which is a part of every organisation these days. Indeed the main criticism of "outsourcing" is that it is a form of management abdication, a cop out, just a method of getting someone else to do the dirty work.

Furthermore, the net effect can be to add layers of previously unnecessary bureaucracy and form filling. The arms length nature of the support structure destroys flexibility and the ability to adapt to changing needs. It can also lead to a confusion of purpose and goals. In other words, the case for out-

sourcing is by no means proven; in recent years there has indeed been a bit of a backlash against it. The BBC needs to think long and hard before it goes radically down this route for a company that exists "in essence" but not "in actuality" comes dangerously close to one that fails to justify itself at all.

It would be easy to dismiss the Jardine Fleming case as just another securities scandal from Hong Kong, a market that makes London's behaviour look prim and proper by comparison. But trading and other scams for making profits at the expense of clients are notoriously rife over there. Think of Standard Chartered and its problems a couple of years ago, the spate of high profile arrests of senior figures in the Chinese business establishment in recent weeks, or the indictment last month of Chen Po-sum, former vice-chair of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, for accepting a bribe to approve a transfer of an exchange seat.

But in fact the gun slinging, anything goes, culture of Hong Kong is actually only an uncomfortable reminder of London of the 1960s, 1970s and even 1980s, when too many professionals failed to see any distinction at all between their own and their clients' money. (Lloyd's carried on the tradition into the 1990s.) Hong Kong's busy regulators at the Securities Commission are now frantically trying to clean up their markets, 10 years after the Financial Services

Act made a start on London.

None of that excuses Flemings, whose failings in this case were breathtaking. It bears repeating that not only has one of its investment management offshoots lost its authorisation to trade but Robert Thomas, the man in charge, and Colin Armstrong, the fund manager at the centre of the scandal, have been barred from investment management.

Flemings appears to have been aware of difficulties in reconciling trades since early last year or late 1994 but did not take the problem to its London regulator, Imro, until October. That should set alarm bells ringing for the bank's shareholders. With the name Barings ringing in their ears they should be setting in train an in-depth probe of all aspects of internal control. They should also be asking why Mr Thomas is still working for the group in a senior role.

Nothing could be more ridiculous than the present search among economists and others for an alternative measure of national prosperity to that of Gross Domestic Product. The latest stab at the exercise is the UK's new environmental accounts. Environmentalists have been at the forefront of the quest for a better measure of well-being than GDP but it is difficult to see what if anything these accounts add to the sum total of knowledge. Nobody would want to argue with the general principle that a clean-

er environment would improve well-being. But beyond that the environmental accounts fail to tell us anything.

Take the assertion that national income has been overstated by about £2bn due to the depletion of Britain's North Sea reserves. Fair enough, but there are other potential environmental adjustments to national income that could go the other way. For example, the conventional national accounts exclude industry's spending on pollution control because these are counted as intermediate spending and netted off total company profits.

Some experts think this spending - also about £2bn - should be added to national income because it helps deliver the benefit of clean air. Others think it should be deducted because it would not have to be spent if we still had clean air in the first place. It can readily be seen that we are here entering the logic of cloud cuckoo land. In principle, as well as in practice, there is no easy answer to the question of how the environment affects national income.

Indeed the green accounts actually emphasise the daftness of seeking to replace GDP with an alternative, single measure of the state of the economy. Conventional GDP has its flaws but does measure something that can be precisely defined and does not depend on political or moral judgements. The quest for a replacement measure of "real" prosperity is a futile one.

Rolls-Royce wins £290m Russian engine order

CHRIS GODSMARK
Business Correspondent

Rolls-Royce has signed its first order to fit jet engines into Russian-built aircraft in a deal which could be worth \$450m (£290m), sending the aerospace group's order book to record levels.

The order, which the company said was the culmination of years of development work, is to supply an initial 26 RB211 engines to power 13 Tupolev Tu-204 passenger jets, similar in size to the Boeing 757, for \$195m. In addition, there is an option to supply a further 17 planes, although Rolls-Royce said the total could run to 200 aircraft.

The engines are being purchased by the Kato Group, a private Egyptian industrial concern, which will lease the completed aircraft to airlines in the former Soviet Union. Two of the RB211 engines were delivered to the Russian manufacturing operation, Aviastar, last month.

It means Rolls-Royce has secured potential orders worth

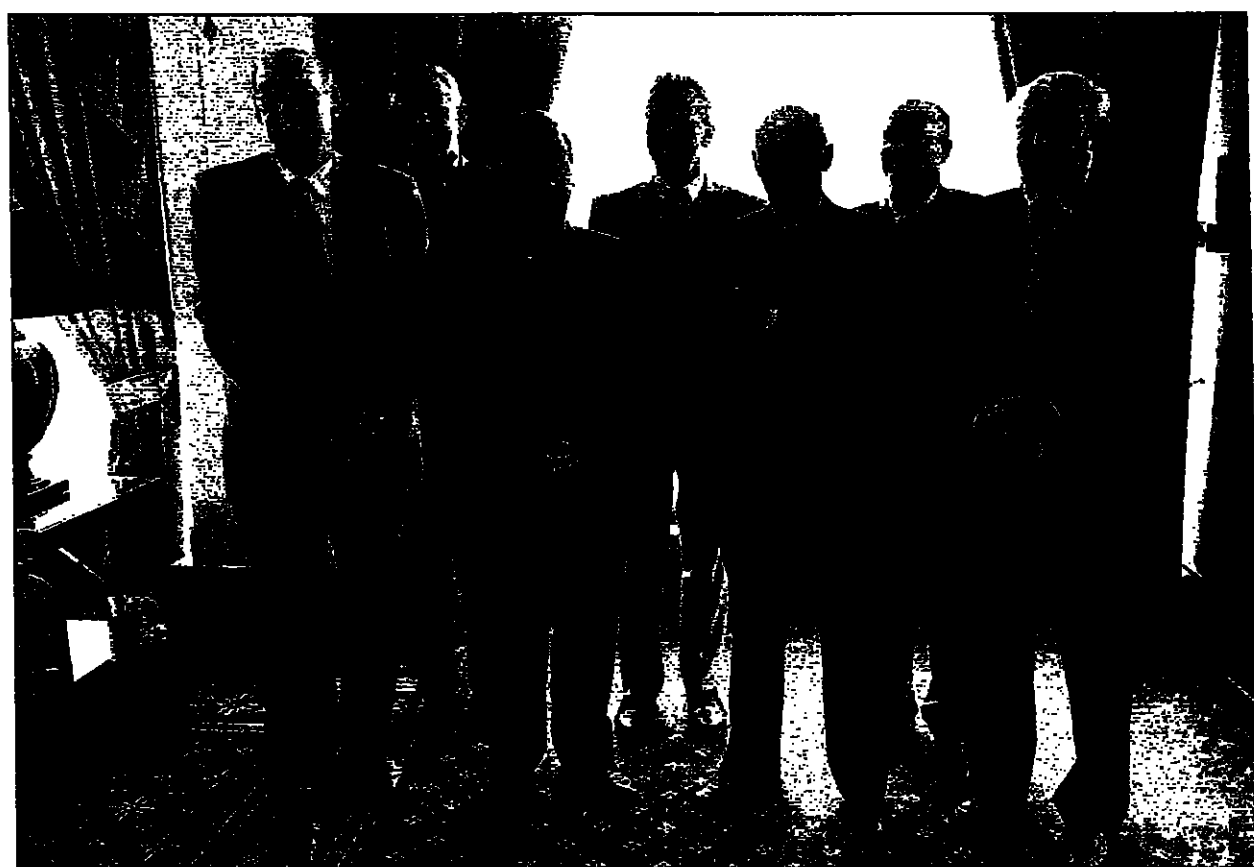
£750m since June, on top of £7.8bn worth of contracts or agreements in the pipeline.

The news came as the company revealed losses of £169m in the first half of the year after making bigger-than-expected provisions of £263m to cover the cost of closing or selling its large steam turbine businesses, which include the historic Parsons plant on Tyneside. Excluding these costs, operating profits surged by 50 per cent, rising from £64m to £96m.

However, an overtime ban by unions at Derby and Bristol, which lasted almost a year, knocked £15m off earnings, while Rolls lost another £5m from the collapse of Fokker, the Dutch aircraft builder which went bankrupt in the spring.

John Rose, the chief executive, insisted he remained hopeful that Parsons would find a buyer. "I'm optimistic there will be a sale. There's been more than enough interest to confirm that view," he explained.

The brighter mood was also



Optimistic: Barney McGill (third left) with union colleagues after meeting with Rolls-Royce yesterday. 'For the first time Rolls were saying that there is genuine interest in Parsons'

detected by Parsons unions, who met with Rolls-Royce board members in London yesterday, Barney McGill from the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, said: "For the first time Rolls were saying that there is genuine interest in Parsons and the other turbine plant in Derby. They seemed positive that prospective buyers are in the wings."

Yet Parsons continued to act as a drain on cash, helping to add a further £15m to the £248m write-offs disclosed at the time of the sell-off announcement last month. The increase in the scale of the provisions to £263m surprised some analysts.

Mr Rose said the aerospace market was "clearly recovering" after years of recession, as airlines gradually replace outdated

fleets. But the City was less impressed with Rolls-Royce's aerospace profits, which were heavily boosted by a strong performance from Allison, the US military engine supplier bought for £320m in March 1995. "The underlying position on aerospace profits was weak," said Chris Avery, an analyst from the French banking group Paribas. Headline operating profits for

the aerospace division jumped by two-thirds to £77m. However, Allison contributed £31m of this in the first half of 1996, compared with just £12m in the first six months of 1995. Stripping away Allison's contribution, the costs of the overtime ban and the losses incurred in the Fokker collapse, aerospace earnings fell by £5m, to £94m. Rolls-Royce shares fell 5.5p to 225.5p.

BA will fight to keep slots at Heathrow

CHRIS GODSMARK

British Airways yesterday emphasised its vehement opposition to giving up any of its lucrative access slots at Heathrow Airport should its proposed alliance with American Airlines be allowed to go ahead.

BA's chief executive, Bob Ayling, told a conference in London that any attempt by regulators to confiscate slots would be "wrong, irrational, unfair, potentially corrupt and against the public interest".

The comments are likely to bring BA into conflict with competition authorities on both sides of the Atlantic as speculation mounts that the Office of Fair Trading is poised to recommend that the deal be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Rival US carriers have mounted an unprecedented attack on the BA-American deal, which will give the combined group 60 per cent of UK-US flights, on the grounds that the two airlines would gain a monopoly on several routes from Heathrow to US cities.

Some of the rival airlines, including TWA, have said they will drop this opposition if BA gives up some of its much-coveted slots at the airport, the

world's busiest. Mr Ayling told delegates the best way to reallocate scarce slots was to buy and sell them in the marketplace.

"There will be a massive and natural development in the market for used slots traded between airlines at prices governed by the laws of supply and demand," he explained. However US carriers have argued this would simply allow BA to earn even greater profits should it decide to divest itself of some of its slots after all.

His comments came after a senior US Government official strongly attacked the UK authorities' stance over the troubled open skies talks, aimed at liberalising UK-US air travel. Mark Gerchick, a deputy assistant secretary at the US department of transportation, accused British officials of "endless, narrow, tit-for-tat bargaining" over every stage of talks.

On Tuesday the US called off the latest round of talks, due to be held in Washington, claiming the British blueprint for a deal was "way off the open skies mark." The US has said it will only grant the BA-American alliance regulatory approval if it can secure an open skies agreement with the UK.

Surge in US growth and home sales take shine off Wall Street

DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

The American economy revealed its unexpected strength for the second time this week, crowding Bill Clinton's nomination for the presidential race at the Democratic Party convention in Chicago.

A big upgrade to the estimated pace of growth in the second quarter of the year and a surge in new home sales in July sent shares on Wall Street and Treasury bond prices tumbling. In London the FTSE 100 share index ended nearly 34 points lower at 3,885, back below the 3,900 level it breached last week, as a result.

The surprisingly buoyant economic figures will make the Federal Reserve more inclined to increase interest rates after its

next policy meeting on 24 September, analysts concluded. Brian Fabbri, an economist at Paribas Securities in New York, said: "If the August employment figures are also strong they will move then, even though it is before the election. If the economy is in such great shape it leads to the conclusion that Clinton cannot lose."

Many experts have been predicting a slowdown in the second half of the year, but recent indicators have been surprisingly robust. Earlier this week consumer confidence returned to a six-year high. Sales of new single-family homes jumped 7.9 per cent in July. The previously reported June decline was revised from a whopping 5.3 per cent originally to a more modest 1.8 per cent. The average price of a new

house rose 2.7 per cent during July. Overall, annual US house price inflation has been running at about 10 per cent.

According to yesterday's revised GDP figures, the US economy grew at an annual rate of 4.8 per cent in the April-June quarter. This was the fastest rate for two years. It compares with the original estimate of 4.2 per cent and a mere 2 per cent in the first quarter.

The unexpected revision was due to several factors, particularly higher investment and stronger government spending. Some economists argue that these increases will not be sustained, causing growth to slow in the second half of this year.

"The question is whether it will slow down quickly enough to avert an increase in interest rates. It will be a close-run

thing," said Mark Cliffe at HSBC Markets.

Analysts who expect the Fed to leave policy unchanged focus on recent comments by the chairman, Alan Greenspan, suggesting the favourable inflation outlook is an important factor.

However, the uncertainty about the Fed's next move has put the spotlight once again on the monthly employment figures, due today.

Job creation in July was weaker than expected, but the August figure is likely to be high, partly due to hiring related to the Olympic Games.

The Dow Jones index was nearly 36 points lower at 5,676.87 by late morning. The benchmark long Treasury bond fell by about half a point, taking the yield up to 7.01 per cent.

Lloyd's plan set to win go-ahead

PETER RODGERS
Financial Editor

David Rowland, chairman of Lloyd's, is expected to announce this morning that the £3.2bn rescue plan has gone unconditional, following acceptance by more than 90 per cent of the membership and approval yesterday by the market's ruling council.

But the final building block for the reconstruction and renewal plan cannot be put into place until next week when Anthony Nelson, the trade minister responsible for the market, returns from holiday.

He must approve the setting up of Equitas, the £14bn reinsurance company taking over Lloyd's liabilities for asbestos and pollution and other losses up to 1992, ring-fencing them from the rest of the market.

Mr Nelson gave conditional approval to Equitas in March, and must now remove those conditions before the assets can be transferred from Lloyd's to the new reinsurance company, which is expected to start conducting business during September. A key condition was that Lloyd's members approve the rescue plan.

Immediately after yesterday's meeting of the 16-strong council, Lloyd's met DTI officials to brief them on progress ahead of the Mr Nelson's decision.

Meanwhile, the Paying Names Action Group - representing members who paid their losses on time but who got worse terms than those who refused - wrote to all members of the council, asking them to consider some form of extra compensation after the rescue goes through.

To Shareholders of Lonrho Plc

**PRINCESS/METROPOLE
FLOAT BY LONRHO Plc**

It's time for yet another EGM at Lonrho.

If you've got nothing better to do, why not read my circular?

If you have got something better to do, then leave it all to the management who brought you the Lonrho Platinum/Impala merger. Remember that?

Tim Rowland

R. W. ROWLAND

Copies of the circular being sent to Lonrho shareholders by R W Rowland may be obtained by contacting him at:
Hedder Wharf, Bourne End, Bucks SL8 5JN
Tel: 01628 525331 Fax: 01628 526148

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Zeneca moves against the tide on talk of a Swiss bid

There is persistent small selling with cheerful overseas developments overshadowed by nagging worries about its Scottish coal interests.

The index is last year's dividend, grossed up to include the price/earnings (P/E) ratio of the share. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price, excluding exceptional items, divided by the earnings per share. Source: FT Information									
are priced by phone from Seag. Simply dial the number and press the appropriate key to enter next to each share. To access the latest prices of the two-digit codes below:									
Rate	04	Privatisation Issues	3						
Rate	05	Water Shares	3						
Rate	06	Electricity Shares	3						
Rate	07	High Street Banks	3						
For a detailed description of the service, for a detailed description of the service,									

Agriculture		Food Processing		Textiles		Chemicals		Metals		Transportation		Electronics		Aerospace		Defense		Healthcare		Education		Energy		Construction		Retail		Finance		Telecommunications		Media		Other																																																																	
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business

Hambro estate agent in the black

NIG CHUTTI and PETER RODGERS

A day after the Hambro group came under threat from a Hong Kong investment fund, Hambro Countrywide, the estate agent and financial services offshoot, swung back into the black after heavy losses.

The sharply improved performance was announced as shareholders were digesting the impact of the disclosure by Regent Pacific, which has specialised in breaking up underperforming investment trusts, that it had bought a 3 per cent stake in Hambro.

Hambro Countrywide, which is majority controlled by Hambro, reported a first-half return to profit of £10.5m, compared with losses of £5.8m last year.

Regent hopes for a meeting with Hambro as early as next week following a letter from Sir Chips Keswick, the chief executive, saying he would be willing to see his new shareholders.

Hambro has potentially powerful allies on its shareholding register. San Paolo, the Italian bank, has a 14 per cent holding and Guardian Royal Exchange almost 10 per cent.

GRE has the same chairman as Hambro, Lord Hambro, and Sir Edward Adeane, former private secretary to the Prince of Wales, is on both boards.

The only other large shareholder is Norwich Union with 4.87 per cent.

Daimler-Benz returns to profit

IMRE KARACS

Bonn

Germany's limping giant Daimler-Benz has emerged from its huge restructuring with a healthy profit, propelled by soaring sales of its car division. Mercedes-Benz figures released yesterday showed that Daimler recovered from last year's slump with an operating profit of DM277m (£360m) in the first half of 1996.

"After the heavy cuts the first results are beginning to show," said the company's chairman, Jürgen Schrempp. "The concern, whose portfolio has been cut from 35 divisions

to 25, is now essentially profitable."

Last year the company recorded a loss of DM5.7bn, the biggest in German history. Mr Schrempp, whom shareholders hold responsible for over-estimating Daimler's range of activities, set about ditching loss-making divisions early this year. Out went its investment in Fokker, the Dutch aircraft manufacturer, at a cost of DM2.3bn, while another recent acquisition, AEG, was pruned into near oblivion.

Despite the good results so far this year, Mr Schrempp conceded that some of the figures remain unsatisfactory.

Overall profit margins are still slim, and turnover, up 9 per cent to DM49.1bn, may not match last year's annual figure of DM103.5bn.

Daimler's aeronautics division, Dasa, remains a drain even without Fokker. In the first half of this year Dasa lost DM700m, a considerable improvement on the DM1.6bn it cost the parent company in the previous six months but still large enough to make a huge dent in Daimler's earnings. Airbus orders are up by 35 per cent this year, but Mr Schrempp does not expect Dasa to return to the black until 1998. The restructuring programme Dolores,

designed to make Dasa competitive on the world market, will continue at the expense of thousands of jobs.

This year's star performer, once again, is Mercedes-Benz, with a profit of DM1.4bn - up 3 per cent - on increased turnover. Earlier this week, Mercedes reported a 7.9 per cent increase in world-wide sales in the first half of this year, boosted by the first time in 45 years, and yesterday Mr Schrempp did not seem certain that it would be able to reward shareholders at the end of this year. Despite the favourable balance sheet, Daimler shares remained virtually unchanged.

profit to DM212m. But the wreckage of AEG still lost DM132m, even after the sacking of most of its workers, and the micro-electronics subsidiary Temic remains in the red. Ultimately Daimler's success or failure will be determined by its ability to rein in the subsidiaries that are bleeding Mercedes dry. Last year the group failed to pay a dividend for the first time in 45 years, and yesterday Mr Schrempp did not seem certain that it would be able to reward shareholders at the end of this year. Despite the favourable balance sheet, Daimler shares remained virtually unchanged.

Slough chairman predicts healthy property revival

Further evidence of the revival in the property market was provided yesterday by Slough Estates, which announced a 14 per cent rise in half-year profits and said its development programme was at a high level in its home market and overseas.

Slough's shares climbed 10p to a high for the year of 247.5p on the profits rise from £32.8m to £37.4m, accompanied by a 14 per cent rise in the interim dividend from 3.1p to 3.25p.

Sir Nigel Mobbs, chairman of Slough, said: "The first point to make is we have seen a better underlying trend in our core portfolio."

Business confidence has improved in the UK, leading to increases in leases and better rental levels. However, he said the recovery was very different from the unsustainable boom conditions of the 1980s.

"What we're seeing this time is that the improvement is being driven by genuine occupancy interest whereas in the 1980s it was being driven by investment interest. This is a much healthier system," he said.

Sir Nigel said businesses were keen to improve their accommodation and this was driving up the interest and resulting in increased rental levels: "The

current development programme which is under way will amount to about 2.5 million sq ft by the year end."

He said much of the development was redevelopment of sites and demand for new land had not emerged as it was "not yet fully economic".

While there was a risk that speculative developments had been overdone in central London, this was not the case in the outer areas of the capital where Slough operated, Sir Nigel said. He confirmed a strengthening of rental levels was continuing, and would gain momentum next year.



Sir Nigel Mobbs: says rental levels are strengthening

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	1.5574	1.54	1.54
Canada	2.2292	2.13	2.07
Germany	2.3052	2.24	2.18
France	7.7874	7.71	7.64
Italy	2.3674	2.31	2.24
Spain	165.00	164.00	163.00
Japan	124.28	123.28	122.28
UK	1.5574	1.54	1.54
Switzerland	1.4874	1.47	1.46
Netherlands	1.6674	1.65	1.64
Denmark	8.4674	8.45	8.44
Sweden	10.4674	10.45	10.44
Australia	1.5574	1.54	1.54
New Zealand	1.5574	1.54	1.54
Singapore	2.2292	2.13	2.07

Other Spot Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	1.5574	1.54	1.54
Canada	2.2292	2.13	2.07
Germany	2.3052	2.24	2.18
France	7.7874	7.71	7.64
Italy	2.3674	2.31	2.24
Spain	165.00	164.00	163.00
Japan	124.28	123.28	122.28
UK	1.5574	1.54	1.54
Switzerland	1.4874	1.47	1.46
Netherlands	1.6674	1.65	1.64
Denmark	8.4674	8.45	8.44
Sweden	10.4674	10.45	10.44
Australia	1.5574	1.54	1.54
New Zealand	1.5574	1.54	1.54
Singapore	2.2292	2.13	2.07

Interest Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Canada	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Germany	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
France	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Italy	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Spain	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Japan	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
UK	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Switzerland	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Netherlands	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Denmark	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Sweden	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Australia	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
New Zealand	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Singapore	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%

Bond Yields

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Canada	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Germany	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
France	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Italy	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Spain	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Japan	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
UK	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Switzerland	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Netherlands	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Denmark	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Sweden	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Australia	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
New Zealand	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Singapore	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%

Money Market Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Canada	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Germany	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
France	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Italy	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Spain	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Japan	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
UK	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Switzerland	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Netherlands	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Denmark	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Sweden	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Australia	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
New Zealand	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Singapore	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%

Tourist Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Canada	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Germany	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
France	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Italy	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Spain	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Japan	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
UK	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Switzerland	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Netherlands	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Denmark	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Sweden	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Australia	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
New Zealand	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Singapore	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%

Life Financial Futures

UK		Germany	
France	5.75%	Discount	2.50%
Switzerland		Lombard	4.50%
Intervention	3.55%	Canada	
Italy		Discount	7.00%
Discount	8.25%	Discount	5.00%
Netherlands		Denmark	
Advances	2.80%	Discount	3.25%

Bond Yields				
Country	5yr	yield %	10yr	yield %
UK	7 1/4		7.87 1/2	
US	6 1/4		6.80	
Canada	5 1/4		5.28	
Japan	6 1/4		7.54	
Germany	5.58 1/4		5.29	
France	5 1/4		5.44	

Money Market Rates	
Overnight	7 Day

THE INDEPENDENT

INDEPENDENT

ON SUNDAY

Play INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL

WIN TICKETS TO THE '98 WORLD CUP



Even though the season has already kicked off, it is not too late to take part in our *great Independent Fantasy Football game*, supported by *Philips Energy Saver Light bulbs*. Don't miss your chance to play the only newspaper Fantasy Football game that really tests your management skills, asking you not only to select a league-winning team of players, but to decide the format that they will play in.

You can opt for a defensive strategy with five defenders, three midfielders and two strikers in a 5-3-2 formation, or go on the attack with three strikers in a 4-3-3 line-up. Complete your team with a goalkeeper and a Premiership manager and you'll be ready for kick-off. To put your title-winning team together you have a budget of £40 million to spend. It is up to you how you spend the money, with no restrictions on the number of players you can choose from any one Premiership team. Look carefully and you will find some real bargains, with Alan Shearer on sale for the fantasy price of £11.1 million!

So take up the challenge and prove your skill as a manager to win a football fan's dream prize and the opportunity to gloat over friends and colleagues well into the 1997-98 season.

PRIZES

The overall winner at the end of the season will be the entrant who has accrued more points than any other Independent Fantasy Football team in that time. Win the ultimate prize - a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. The winner, plus companion, will see all the action of a quarter-final and a semi-final of their choice, plus the final. In addition, the highest scoring team each month will win a pair of tickets to one of England's World Cup qualifying games at Wembley.

HOW TO ENTER

Using your football knowledge decide your team formation from the following four options:

- FORMATION A. 4-4-2**
4 Defenders, 4 Midfielders, 2 Strikers
FORMATION B. 4-3-3
4 Defenders, 3 Midfielders, 3 Strikers
FORMATION C. 5-3-2
5 Defenders, 3 Midfielders, 2 Strikers
FORMATION D. 3-5-2
3 Defenders, 5 Midfielders, 2 Strikers

You are free to enter as many teams as you wish, allowing you to try out more than one tactical formation, but each team must be made as a separate entry via a separate telephone call.



Once you have chosen your formation, select your team of 10 players to fit your chosen option, plus one goalkeeper and one manager from the list below. Players can only play in the positions that they are listed under and the team's total value must not exceed £40 million. Remember to give your team a name.

Use our Team Selection form above right, to make a note of your team's details, then dial our registration hotline to register. Where possible, please try to use a tone telephone, although a traditional pulse telephone can be used if necessary.

Make sure you follow the instructions on the phone line carefully. At the end of your call you will be given your own special PIN number, which you must keep safe. It can be added to your Team Selection form.

HOW TO SCORE

Every time one of your players scores a goal you will be awarded four points. Four points will also be awarded for goalkeepers and defenders whose team have kept a clean sheet during a match. If a player scores the winning goal, i.e. if there is a one-goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the

winning team is awarded one bonus point in addition to the standard four points awarded for that goal. Each successful assist (a pass that, in the opinion of our team of experts, leads directly to a goal) will give a player three points. The opinion of our experts on this matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game will be awarded one point.

Players lose one point for a yellow card and three for a red card. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count for scoring purposes.

The Premiership manager that you choose will be awarded three points if their real-life team win, one point if they draw and no points if they lose.

Results will be published in The Independent every Wednesday for all games played from the previous Monday to Sunday inclusive. They will also appear the following Sunday, in the Independent on Sunday.

If your player or manager has been injured or transferred out of the Premiership, there will be the chance to update your team in our transfer period, which will be announced soon. Please read the Rules and Conditions carefully before making your call.

Team Selection Form

Name	Code	Value
Goalkeeper		
Defender 1		
Defender 2		
Defender 3		
Defender 4		
Defender 5		
Midfielder 1		
Midfielder 2		
Midfielder 3		
Midfielder 4		
Midfielder 5		
Striker 1		
Striker 2		
Striker 3		
Manager		
PIN No.		Total £

POINT SCORES:
4 points for a goal ■ 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet ■ 3 points for a successful assist ■ 1 point when a player is selected and plays ■ 1 point for a winning goal ■ 3 points for a manager win, 1 point for a draw ■ Lose 1 point for a yellow card ■ Lose 3 points for a red card

Register today, call:

UK 0891 252 244 (tone)

UK 0891 252 234 (pulse)

Republic of Ireland: 1550 131 553

UK calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p at all other times.
Republic of Ireland calls cost 50p per minute including VAT at all times.
Maximum call length 6.5 minutes.

INDEPENDENT TEAM MARKET

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)
GOALKEEPERS				458	Unsworth	EVE	3.0	554	Thorn	WIM	1.8	688	Bart-Williams	NOT	3.6	857	Heskey	LEI	2.8
300	Seaman	ARS	5.9	459	Hottiger	EVE	2.2	555	Thatcher	WIM	2.7	689	Stone	NOT	5.0	858	Robins	LEI	2.0
303	Bosnich	AV	4.0	460	Hinchcliffe	EVE	1.9					690	Gemmell	NOT	3.0	859	Cantona	MU	8.1
304	Flowers	BLA	5.2	463	Bosnich	LEE	2.7	MIDFIELDERS				693	Parker	LEI	2.5	860	Scholes	MU	5.0
305	Kharin	CHE	3.7	464	Kelly	LEE	3.6	600	Merson	ARS	4.4	694	Taylor	LEI	1.6	863	Cole	MU	6.2
306	Hitchcock	CHE	1.5	465	Wetherall	LEE	3.5	603	Platt	ARS	4.8	695	Izzett	LEI	2.1	864	Fjortoft	MID	3.1
307	Ogrizovic	COV	2.2	466	Dorigo	LEE	3.2	604	Parlour	ARS	2.4	696	Waddle	SW	2.7	865	Ravanelli	MID	8.0
308	Filan	COV	1.5	467	Pemberton	LEE	1.2	605	Heider	ARS	3.7	697	Blinker	SW	2.2	866	Barmby	MID	6.7
309	Southall	EVE	3.0	468	Walsh	LEI	2.2	606	Hillier	ARS	1.5	698	Jones	SW	2.0	867	Beardsley	NEW	4.4
330	Martyn	LEE	3.3	469	Grayson	LEI	2.2	607	Taylor	AV	1.9	699	Hyde	SW	1.8	868	Asprilla	NEW	7.4
333	James	LIV	4.7	470	Whitlow	LEI	1.2	608	Townsend	AV	3.1	700	Magilton	SOT	2.4	869	Ferdinand	NEW	8.6
335	Poole	LEI	1.5	473	Watts	LEI	1.6	609	Draper	AV	4.1	703	Venison	SOT	2.7	870	Saunders	NOT	5.2
336	Hoult	DER	1.6	474	Babb	LIV	3.7	630	Donis	BLA	3.0	704	Heaney	SOT	2.2	873	Roy	NOT	4.8
337	Schneichel	MU	5.5	475	Jones (R)	LIV	2.7	633	Wilcox	BLA	3.7	705	Gray	SUN	3.0	874	Campbell	NOT	3.1
338	Walsh	MU	3.0	476	Wright	LIV	2.8	634	Ripley	BLA	3.0	706	Kie	SUN	2.0	875	Booth	SW	4.4
339	Srnicek	NEW	3.7	477	Ruddock	LIV	4.4	635	Shawcross	BLA	3.4	707	Agnew	SUN	1.0	876	Hirst	SW	5.5
340	Hisp	NEW	3.7	478	Scates	LIV	4.4	636	Shawcross	BLA	3.0	708	Anderson	TOB	6.6	877	Bright	SW	2.7
343	Crossley	NOT	2.7	479	Harkness	LIV	2.2	637	Gullit	CHE	4.4	709	Howells	TOB	3.2	878	Le Tissier	SOT	7.0
344	Wright	NOT	1.3	480	Neville (G)	MU	3.7	638	Di Matteo	CHE	4.4	733	Stinson	TOB	3.0	879	Shipperley	SOT	3.7
345	Beasant	SOT	1.8	483	Neville (P)	MU	3.7	639	Wise	CHE	3.7	734	Williamson	WH	3.6	880	Walton	SUN	2.2
346	Pressman	SW	2.7	484	Irwin	MU	4.1	640	Newton	CHE	2.4	735	Dummetts	WH	3.7	883	Kelly	SUN	2.1
347	Coton	SUN	1.8	485	Pallister	MU	4.9	643	Peacock	CHE	2.1	736	Hughes	WH	2.7	884	Stewart	SUN	2.3
348	Walker	TOT	3.4	486	May	MU	3.0	644	Salako	COV	2.4	737	Muncur	WH	2.7	885	Sherringham	TOT	7.4
349	Miklosko	WH	3.0	487	Vickers	MID	2.2	645	Teifer	COV	1.8	738	Bishop	WH	3.0	886	Armstrong	TOT	5.9
350	Sullivan	WIM	1.8	488	Pearson	MID	2.2	646	Richardson	COV	2.4	739	Jones	WIM	2.8	887	Rosenthal	TOT	2.1
				489	Whyte	MID	2.2	647	McAllister	COV	3.0	740	Earle	WIM	3.1	888	Futre	WH	4.0
				490	Cox	MID	2.5	648	Jess	COV	2.2	743	Arley	WIM	2.0	889	Raducioiu	WH	5.1
				493	Albert	NEW	4.1	649	Simpson	DER	1.2	744	Fear	WIM	2.0	890	Dowie	WH	3.3
				494	Howey	NEW	3.7	650	Asanovic	DER	2.2					893	Holdsworth	WIM	4.5
				495	Peacock	NEW	3.0	653	Van Der Laan	DER	1.6					894	Goodman	WIM	3.2
				496	Barton	NEW	3.3	654	Ebbrell	EVE	1.9					895	Ekoku	WIM	2.7
				497	Barnford	NEW	2.2	655	Kanchelskis	EVE	6.7	STRIKERS							
				498	Copper	NOT	3.0	656	Barkins	EVE	1.8	800	Bergkamp	ARS	7.0	MANAGERS			
				499	Chellie	NOT	2.4	657	Stuart	EVE	2.5	803	Wright	ARS	7.2	900	Keegan	NEW	8.0
				500	Jerkkan	NOT	2.9	658	Grant	EVE	2.2	804	Harrison	ARS	3.7	903	Ferguson	MU	7.0
				503	Lyttle	NOT	1.8	659	Bowyer	LEE	3.0	806	Yokos	AV	6.7	904	Evans	LIV	7.0
				504	Pearce	NOT	3.4	660	Wallace	LEE	1.8	807	Milosevic	AV	4.4	905	Rioch	ARS	4.0
				505	Monkous	SOT	2.5	663	Palmer	LEE	3.0	809	Johnson	AV	3.5	906	Royle	EVE	5.5
				506	Dodd	SOT	2.2	664	Barnes	LIV	3.0	830	Shearer	NEW	11.1	907	Harford	BLA	5.5
				507	Benali	SOT	2.2	665	Redknapp	LIV	5.2	834	Sutton	BLA	3.7	908	Francis	TOT	5.0
				508	Charlton	SOT	2.2	666	McManaman	LIV	5.9	835	Valli	CHE	8.1	909	Wilkinson	LEE	3.5
				509	Nolan	SW	1.9	667	McAteer	LIV	3.7	836	Hughes	CHE	4.4	930	Redknapp	WH	3.3
				530	Atherton	SW	1.6	668	Thomas	LIV	3.0	837	Spencer	CHE	2.5	933	Gullit	CHE	4.5
				533	Walker	SW	2.5	669	Giggs	MU	7.4	838	Dublin	COV	4.7	934	Clark	NOT	3.3
				534	Stefanovic	SUN	1.6	670	Beckham	MU	5.2	839	Whelan	COV	5.2	935	Robson	MID	5.0
				535	Melville	SUN	2.2	673	Keane	MU	6.5	840	Ndlovu	COV	4.3	936	Reid	SUN	2.0
				536	Kubicki	SUN	1.2	674	Butt	MU	4.5	843	Gabbiadini	DER	3.5	937	Souness	SOT	2.3
				537	Ball	SUN	2.2	675	Shaw	MU	3.0	844	Ward	DER	2.5	938	O'Neill	LEI	1.8
				538	Campbell	TOT	2.9	676	Juninho	MID	5.9	845	Sturridge	DER	3.0	939	Smith	DER	2.0
				539	Caldwell	TOT	2.3	677	Emerson	MID	4.4	846	Ferguson	EVE	6.7	940	Kinnear	WIM	2.2
				540	Austin	TOT	2.2	678	Hignett	MID	2.5	847	Amokachi	EVE	3.7	943	Atkinson	COV	4.0
				543	Edinburgh	TOT	1.6	679	Moore	MID	1.2	848	Rideout	EVE	3.0	944	Little	AV	5.0
				544	Mabbutt	TOT	2.7	680	Lee	NEW	3.6	849	Yeboah	LEE	5.9	945	Pleat	SW	3.5
				545	Dicks	WH	3.5	683	Batty	NEW	4.5	850	Rush	LEE	5.2				
				546	Bilic	WH	3.7	684	Gillespie	NEW	4.0	853	Deane	LEE	3.0				
				547	Rieper	WH	2.7	685	Ginola	NEW	4.2	854	Collymore	LIV	8.1				
				548	Hall	WH	2.7	686	Clark	NEW	3.0	855	Fowler	LIV	9.5				
				549	Bowen	WH	2.2	687	Woan	NOT	3.4	856	Claridge	LEI	3.0				
				550	Pearce	WIM	2.2												
				553	Reeves	WIM	1.8												

RULES AND CONDITIONS

1. Only entries made via The Independent...
2. For your Fantasy Football team selection...
3. Independent Fantasy Football results are calculated on all matches in the FA Cup...
4. In the event that a goalkeeper or a defender is substituted, the player substituted and the substitute are both deemed to have played in the match in question.

5. FA Cup Premier League footballers have been assigned a fictional transfer value by our experts which represent current ability. There will be no correspondence relating to players or their fictional value.

6. The overall prize of the 1998 World Cup trip will go to the team whose total score exceeds that of any other team over the whole season. If there is a tie, a simple draw will take place.

7. One pair of tickets to see England play at Wembley will be awarded to the manager whose team's points exceed that of any other manager during the season. The months are March 1 to 31/03/97 to 31/03/98 to 31/03/99 to 31/03/00 to 31/03/01 to 31/03/02 to 31/03/03 to 31/03/04 to 31/03/05 to 31/03/06 to 31/03/07 to 31/03/08 to 31/03/09 to 31/03/10 to 31/03/11 to 31/03/12 to 31/03/13 to 31/03/14 to 31/03/15 to 31/03/16 to 31/03/17 to 31/03/18 to 31/03/19 to 31/03/20 to 31/03/21 to 31/03/22 to 31/03/23 to 31/03/24 to 31/03/25 to 31/03/26 to 31/03/27 to 31/03/28 to 31/03/29 to 31/03/30 to 31/03/31 to 31/03/32 to 31/03/33 to 31/03/34 to 31/03/3

sport

Lewis has perfect riposte

Cricket

DAVID LLEWELLYN
reports from The Oval
Warwickshire 195
Surrey 82-0

Hell hath no fury like a cricketer scorned. In this case there were two of them. First there was Chris Lewis, dropped by England from the squad for the one-day series against Pakistan after a tardy arrival during the last Test on his home ground at the weekend; to add insult to humiliation the Test and County Cricket Board asked Surrey, who were losing three men to England anyway, to drop the all-rounder for this crucial match against Warwickshire.

Full marks to Surrey. After politely declining an outrageous request, they proceeded to put Lewis in charge in the absence of their captain, Alec Stewart, and his official deputy, Adam Holoake. The response from Lewis was immediate and ultimately magnificent. He won the toss on a chilly, overcast morning and put in the County champions.

He needed just four balls to cock a snook at the England hierarchy. Opener Wasim Khan nibbled at a wide delivery and was well taken by Alistair Brown at second slip. It got better. After Martin Bicknell accounted for the other opener, Andy Moles, in the next over, Lewis struck twice more in the morning and also took a superb catch at backward point. Finally he helped to dock the tail to finish

with a return of 4 for 45 - his second best haul for the county - while Brendan Julian claimed his 50th first-class wicket for Surrey, although he did concede 21 extras (10 no-balls, and a wide), and had it not been for those needless runs he would have had an identical return to Lewis.

Unfortunately on his way to that excellent set of figures Lewis and his band ran up against Scorned of The Oval Mark II. The slow left-arm bowler Ashley Giles, who played club cricket for Guildford, had thought he might have a future with Surrey. He was mistaken, so in 1992 he took himself off to Warwickshire where he has since flourished, establishing himself in the first team and arriving here with 52 first class wickets.

It was with the bat that he excelled his revenge, playing the Surrey attack for his third half-century of the summer, while his team-mates dropped like flies around him, to restore some dignity to the Warwickshire cause.

He and Keith Piper pulled the innings out of the mire with a seventh-wicket stand of 101. The home side then underlined their superiority when openers Darren Bicknell and Mark Butcher made relatively untroubled progress to the premature close. It was a close-run thing as to what was going to end the day. A slow over-rate had made overtime a certainty and it could well have been nightfall that would drive the players off, had it not been for the timely intervention of bad light.



Man scorned: Chris Lewis sets about proving a point against Warwickshire's batsmen yesterday

Photograph: John Stillwell/PA

White tilts balance away from Essex

MIKE CAREY

reports from Headingley
Yorkshire 290
Essex 79-2

In an ideal world, Essex would have marked their ascent to the top of the Championship table yesterday with a display of the efficiency that has earned them five successive wins. But cricket does not always follow a logical course and it was Yorkshire who had the better of a thoroughly entertaining day, even

though they would not have been entirely satisfied.

Craig White batted majestically for the second successive game and Martyn Moxon and Richard Blakey both made half-centuries, but the big innings that would have strengthened Yorkshire's grip on a match they must win never materialised, despite Essex's problems.

But it was always going to be a difficult day for someone. A rock-hard pitch of occasional uneven bounce with sideways movement for the new ball and shaven on a spinner's length was

clearly produced with a result in mind, but a buffeting, blustery wind frustrated Essex's bowlers and length and line were often elusive.

To a certain extent, they solved the problem by using first Graham Gooch and then Peter Such for lengthy, old-fashioned spells of stock bowling into the wind and allowing their quicker bowlers to operate in relays at the other end, but only Neil Williams, off a shortened run, put the ball consistently in the right place.

In his first over he turned

Michael Vaughan round to have him caught at slip. In his next, Moxon, when two, survived a similar chance and needed a fair amount of luck against Ashley Cowan, who along with Yorkshire's Chris Silverwood and Derbyshire's Andrew Harris, is regarded as one of the most promising young bowlers to have emerged recently.

But Cowan was not the first inexperienced bowler to discover that Headingley, with its sloping run-ups, is not the easiest ground on which to bowl. He found it hard to obtain any

consistent rhythm and his opening spell culminated in being square-cut remarkably for six by Moxon.

Moxon got himself out, leaving White to begin more or less where he left off with his 181 against Lancashire. Essex would have been highly relieved when he and Blakey both got out soon after adding 115 at five an over. And although they bowled their overs with admirable briskness, the loss of Gooch, splendidly caught one-handed by Blakey, probably convinced them that it was not their day.

Century from Athey puts Sussex in control

Round-up

Bill Athey compiled a typically painstaking century to help Sussex take control by reaching 285 for 6 against Lancashire on a flat wicket at Hove yesterday. The former England opener struck 15 boundaries in a gritty stay of nearly four and a half hours.

He had faced 217 deliveries in his third hundred of the season before he attempted to cut spinner Mike Watkinson and was caught behind by Warren Hegg.

Athey, who offered a difficult chance to Hegg off Ian Austin on 43, also had a lot of having added three when dropped at midwicket off Jason Gallian.

Sussex, who won the toss, were given a positive start with Athey and Neil Lenham sharing an opening stand of 68.

Lenham eased to 37 with seven fours before he was caught at third slip off Richard Green, who bowled unchanged before the lunch interval.

Austin removed Keith Greenfield (24) in similar fashion after the interval, and the captain, Alan Wells, had made 21 when he pulled a long hop from Gallian straight to midwicket.

This made Sussex 147 for 3 but the patient Athey then

joined forces with the uncapped Keith Newell to frustrate Lancashire by adding 70 in 24 overs.

Newell, playing in only his second Championship game of the season in place of the injured Martin Speight, took seven overs to open his account but grew in confidence to reach 31 before falling to a return catch by Austin.

Austin struck again shortly before stumps by having Peter Moores caught at cover and the pace bowler finished 3 for 34.

HENRY BLOFELD

reports from Old Trafford

This was an extraordinary day. A pitch which looked unfit for human consumption turned out to be a red herring and the Pakistanis, for all their stated intentions to win the Texaco series, played as if they had completed the main business of the tour on Monday by winning the Test series and were not too bothered.

England, on the other hand, had picked themselves up in remarkable and admirable fashion and their approach was wholly different to their rather

hangdog display at The Oval. It was most encouraging to see how the players reacted so soon after Monday's defeat and especially so with the winter's tour coming up.

In the morning, the bowling was well directed and the two left handers Saeed Anwar and Aamir Sohail were never allowed any freedom outside the off stump.

Alan Mullally was most impressive and gave away only 11 runs in his first seven overs. He bowled a tight line just outside the off stump and although Saeed was trying all the time to make room for himself so that he could make his favourite

stroke, the square cut, he simply could not get Mullally away.

Curiously, the uneven bounce seemed more pronounced early on when Saeed was trying to cut and almost invariably the low bounce took the ball under his bat. Darren Gough also played his part, giving away only 16 runs in his first five overs and his control was better than it often is. Later on, Robert Croft played a most impressive part taking 2 for 36 in 10 excellent overs of off-spin.

He confirmed all the good impressions he made at The Oval. When Pakistan's first wicket fell, at 82, it was in the 24th over and the remaining batsmen

found themselves under great pressure to push the score along and make up for this sedentary start. The England bowlers, backed up by good fielding, had throttled the early batting and taken control.

Even so, the England batsmen had every chance of losing their way but they were given a wonderful start by Alec Stewart and Nick Knight. They attacked the bowling from the start and never let Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis settle down.

This opening partnership effectively won the match although both Mike Atherton and Matthew Maynard made hand-

some contributions later on.

To balance the equation though one has to say that this was an extremely slow pitch but even so Wasim and Waqar can be fast and hostile on any surface if they are in the mood. On Monday at The Oval they could not wait to get the ball and they ran in to bowl as if their lives depended on it. Now, it was altogether more leisurely.

Mushtaq Ahmed, the little leg-spinner, was also different. On Monday he never had less than three men round the bat; now he had none except briefly after Aamir Sohail had had Graham Thorpe stumped. He was much less bouncy than usual.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Britannic Assurance County Championship

First day of four unless stated

Derbyshire v Worcestershire

CRICKETFIELD: Derbyshire (Athea), with nine first-class wickets standing, trail Worcestershire (4) by 72 runs.

Derbyshire won toss

Derbyshire: 1-10R, 2-10R, 3-10R, 4-10R, 5-10R, 6-10R, 7-10R, 8-10R, 9-10R, 10-10R, 11-10R, 12-10R, 13-10R, 14-10R, 15-10R, 16-10R, 17-10R, 18-10R, 19-10R, 20-10R, 21-10R, 22-10R, 23-10R, 24-10R, 25-10R, 26-10R, 27-10R, 28-10R, 29-10R, 30-10R, 31-10R, 32-10R, 33-10R, 34-10R, 35-10R, 36-10R, 37-10R, 38-10R, 39-10R, 40-10R, 41-10R, 42-10R, 43-10R, 44-10R, 45-10R, 46-10R, 47-10R, 48-10R, 49-10R, 50-10R, 51-10R, 52-10R, 53-10R, 54-10R, 55-10R, 56-10R, 57-10R, 58-10R, 59-10R, 60-10R, 61-10R, 62-10R, 63-10R, 64-10R, 65-10R, 66-10R, 67-10R, 68-10R, 69-10R, 70-10R, 71-10R, 72-10R, 73-10R, 74-10R, 75-10R, 76-10R, 77-10R, 78-10R, 79-10R, 80-10R, 81-10R, 82-10R, 83-10R, 84-10R, 85-10R, 86-10R, 87-10R, 88-10R, 89-10R, 90-10R, 91-10R, 92-10R, 93-10R, 94-10R, 95-10R, 96-10R, 97-10R, 98-10R, 99-10R, 100-10R, 101-10R, 102-10R, 103-10R, 104-10R, 105-10R, 106-10R, 107-10R, 108-10R, 109-10R, 110-10R, 111-10R, 112-10R, 113-10R, 114-10R, 115-10R, 116-10R, 117-10R, 118-10R, 119-10R, 120-10R, 121-10R, 122-10R, 123-10R, 124-10R, 125-10R, 126-10R, 127-10R, 128-10R, 129-10R, 130-10R, 131-10R, 132-10R, 133-10R, 134-10R, 135-10R, 136-10R, 137-10R, 138-10R, 139-10R, 140-10R, 141-10R, 142-10R, 143-10R, 144-10R, 145-10R, 146-10R, 147-10R, 148-10R, 149-10R, 150-10R, 151-10R, 152-10R, 153-10R, 154-10R, 155-10R, 156-10R, 157-10R, 158-10R, 159-10R, 160-10R, 161-10R, 162-10R, 163-10R, 164-10R, 165-10R, 166-10R, 167-10R, 168-10R, 169-10R, 170-10R, 171-10R, 172-10R, 173-10R, 174-10R, 175-10R, 176-10R, 177-10R, 178-10R, 179-10R, 180-10R, 181-10R, 182-10R, 183-10R, 184-10R, 185-10R, 186-10R, 187-10R, 188-10R, 189-10R, 190-10R, 191-10R, 192-10R, 193-10R, 194-10R, 195-10R, 196-10R, 197-10R, 198-10R, 199-10R, 200-10R, 201-10R, 202-10R, 203-10R, 204-10R, 205-10R, 206-10R, 207-10R, 208-10R, 209-10R, 210-10R, 211-10R, 212-10R, 213-10R, 214-10R, 215-10R, 216-10R, 217-10R, 218-10R, 219-10R, 220-10R, 221-10R, 222-10R, 223-10R, 224-10R, 225-10R, 226-10R, 227-10R, 228-10R, 229-10R, 230-10R, 231-10R, 232-10R, 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Leading clubs to break from RFU

Rugby Union

DAVID LLEWELLYN

The First and Second Division clubs have thrown the English game into turmoil by deciding to break away from the Rugby Football Union.

With the Five Nations Championship already under threat, the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs, under whose aegis the top 24 clubs operate, will be giving Twickenham a season's notice of their intent and hope to fulfil their fixture commitments this year, but from September 1997 they will no longer be answerable to the game's governing body in this country.

Donald Kerr, the Epruc chairman, said: "The whole or-

ganisation at Twickenham is paralysed by the in-fighting between rival parties. We have to embrace professionalism and make our plans."

He added: "The decision has been taken in the light of widespread dismay among club men." The move was made reluctantly, for senior club representatives had hoped to embrace the new world of professionalism hand in hand with the RFU hierarchy.

The Epruc clubs' move will leave the RFU in tatters and the game split, possibly irrevocably, in the British Isles, if not the northern hemisphere.

There is certain to be a call for a Special General Meeting. As clubs in the north are reluctant to have provided the requisite number of signatures

for a petition which is likely to put a motion of no confidence before the delegates and call for the resignation at least of the team which negotiated the sale of exclusive broadcasting rights to BSkyB for £87.5m over five years, a deal which appears to have cost England their place in the Five Nations.

The move by English clubs could well be copied by those in other home unions. The Welsh clubs are said to be very unhappy with the Welsh Rugby Union. Epruc is scheduled to meet representatives of the Welsh clubs today, confident of winning their support. The Scottish clubs, too, are said to be disgruntled.

The decision by the clubs, all members of Epruc, was taken during a series of meetings this

What this means for rugby union

- Five Nations Championship not viable in its present form
- 1999 World Cup in doubt, therefore more loss of vital revenue
- BSkyB deal now in balance
- A number of clubs who were relying on a share of the BSkyB cash and could now go to the wall

week. On Tuesday, English First Division Rugby met Epruc representatives at Northampton and their mood was militant. On Wednesday, it was the turn of English Second Division Rugby - again with Epruc - this time in Coventry. Again their decision to break away was unanimous.

Yesterday the seal of approval was provided by the money men, such as Sir John Hall, who have between them

put some £30m into the game over the last 12 months or so.

A leading official with Epruc said last night that the clubs' had run out of patience with the RFU and said the fundamental issues which had prompted the move revolved around funding and control of the clubs.

Leicester's chief executive, Peter Wheeler, put the clubs' complaints succinctly yesterday. "The RFU have been so

busy fighting each other tooth and nail, they have done nothing to help bring us into the professional era," he said.

Essentially, the clubs want a certain amount of autonomy, to which the RFU had agreed according to a resolution drawn up between the two sides on 24 May. That left some outstanding issues, including the clubs' desire to set out their own sponsorship for the Leagues.

Courage had agreed to pull out of the top two divisions and concentrate their cash on the Third Division and lower, but according to Epruc the RFU blocked that.

Epruc claim they cannot fund domestic club rugby on £300,000 per year for First Division clubs and £100,000 for the Second Di-

vision clubs - the cash they are to receive from the Sky deal. As one senior club figure said: "The Division One clubs already receive £120,000 from Sky anyway, so the increase is a net £180,000. The RFU are prepared to throw £10m at the other unions and another £10m to safeguard the Five Nations, yet they are not prepared to put a penny into club rugby."

The last straw as far as the clubs are concerned was the news that the £2.5m they were told they could expect to share from the Heineken European Cup has been reduced to £1.5m because the organisers, European Rugby Cup Ltd, had failed to find a broadcaster or a sponsor for the second tier of the competition, the European Con-

ference and so have funded that from the original prize pot. "The problem," said the Epruc official, "is that the RFU is paralysed. It is hopeless. They set up channels of communication between the clubs and themselves but everything has had to be referred to the executive and they keep turning everything down. We have not been able to negotiate with the principals."

Although some clubs will have to refer to their membership regarding a breakaway from the RFU, once the formalities have been observed it is expected that the clubs will give the RFU a season's notice, although it is unacceptable that they could go it alone a lot sooner, which would probably bring the game to a standstill.

Polished England revel in their own reflection

Cricket

DEREK PRINGLE

reports from Old Trafford
Pakistan 225-5
England 226-5
England win by 5 wickets

In late afternoon, the summer sun can shine straight down this Old Trafford pitch, blinding batsmen with its mirror-like surface. Yesterday, although that surface was cracked and quartered like a Roman mosaic, England, for once, were able to see their reflection without turning away in disgust, easily beating Pakistan by five wickets in the first one-day international.

As they are so often inclined to do in these Texaco Matches, England totally outplayed the

opposition, once again showing a panache for this sort of cricket that does not travel well abroad. For once, all facets of their game looked polished and although the home side owed much to Asim Shah's funeral 48 off 117 balls, Atherton's men can take much credit for the upbeat way in which they approached this match.

Chasing a total of 225, on a pitch that threatened Jurassic Park, but played more like Sabina, the England skipper chose to open with Alec Stewart and Nick Knight, and drop himself to No 3. It was obvious that a crisp start was needed, and Stewart was patently the man for the job.

He delivered, too, belting both Wasim and Waqar for fours in the opening overs as he and Knight, reinstated to the

opening role he fills for Warwickshire, put on 57 in the first 10 overs. So assured were the pair at puncturing Wasim's carefully set field that he was forced to turn to the off-spin of Saqlain Mushtaq as early as the 10th over.

Saqlain is a fine bowler, but his absence from the important cricket of the tour will not have helped him on his early introduction here and he was never allowed to settle. Instead, Wasim ought to have turned to Mushaq Ahmed, though like those of Waqar, he probably wanted to save the leg-spinner's overs to exert pressure later in the piece.

It was a fine balancing act that could have gone Pakistan's way had Wasim managed to cling on to a sharp chance from Stewart, offered soon after the bowler had removed Knight,

caught behind trying to guide the ball away to third man. However, with Atherton quick to rotate the strike, England never trod water. Instead, Stewart's demise, leg before trying to flick Waqar to leg for 48, saw Atherton launch a controlled sort of his own.

A 48-run partnership with Graham Thorpe gave way to one of 54 shared with Matthew Maynard, as England's skipper controlled the match. But although both batsmen were guilty of getting out before the end, the hard work had been done.

Earlier, England's bowling, particularly in the first 15 overs, was admirably straight. In the circumstances, little more was required and although Saeed Anwar was in sublime touch, his opening partner Sohail looked as if he was conducting a go-slow after Wasim had won the toss and bat first.

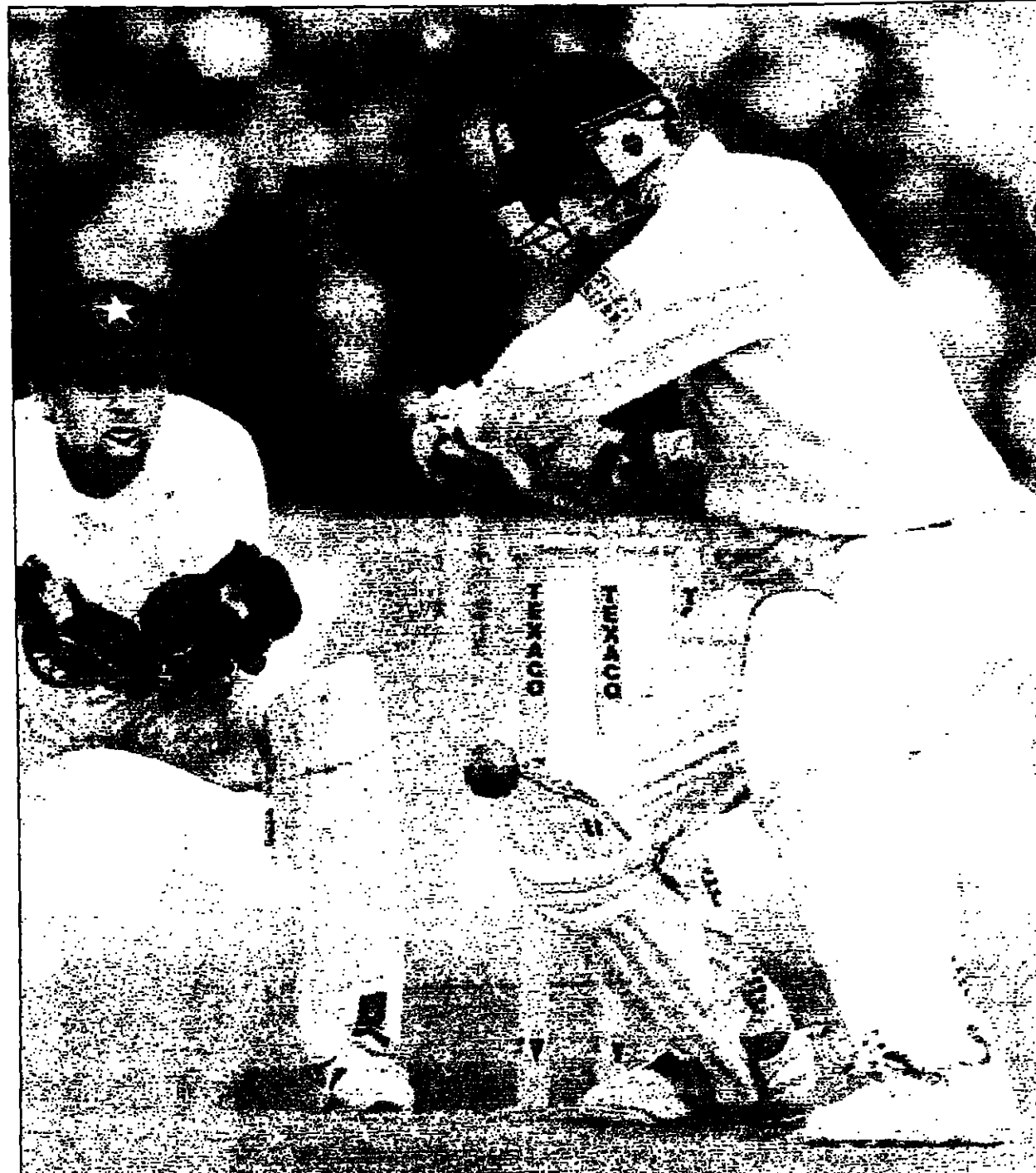
After 10 overs, the Pakistan vice-captain had ground his way to just a single run. The rangy lolling left-arm of Alan Mullally, like a Gary Kasparov attack on an opponent's Queen, slowly pushing him into a corner, his options disappearing by the ball. When Mullally rested, he'd conceded 11 runs from seven overs, a remarkable analysis considering the fielding restrictions in place.

And yet while Sohail scratched, blunted and missed, Anwar with his supple squash player's wrists improvised with the confidence of a man in prime form.

By the time Ronnie Irani came on, he had quite obviously decided to go it alone, striking the Essex all-rounder's second ball over the top for four. Irani, however gained his revenge, when attempting to repeat the shot some overs later, Anwar was caught by Mullally for 57.

Irani, whose bowling is the weaker of his suits lacked the required zip for this surface and his ten overs were the most expensive in the match costing 56 runs. A figure almost matched by Dean Headley, whose wicketless debut did not highlight the Kent bowler's undoubted talent.

Robert Croft, England's other one-day debutant - like his showing at the Oval - made a far deeper impression. He ap-



Captain's innings: Michael Atherton hits out during his match-winning knock for England Photograph: David Ashdown

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Across: 1. SAVAGENESS (8), 5. SCOTTISH (8), 10. DIVERSION (8), 11. LOOK (4), 12. CONSTABLE (8), 13. ORIGINATOR (8), 15. EXCEPTIONAL (8), 18. CRICKET-SIDE (8), 20. ONE TRYING (8), 23. MOTHER (8), 25. SEA PARROT (8), 26. LEAVING (8), 27. ATTENDANT (8), 28. ALL TYPES (8), 29. SUPPORTER (8), 30. WITH NO-ONE (8), 31. CRICKET-SIDE (8), 32. BEGINNING (8), 33. ONE TRYING (8), 34. MOTHER (8), 35. SEA PARROT (8), 36. LEAVING (8), 37. ATTENDANT (8), 38. ALL TYPES (8), 39. SUPPORTER (8), 40. WITH NO-ONE (8), 41. CRICKET-SIDE (8), 42. BEGINNING (8), 43. ONE TRYING (8), 44. MOTHER (8), 45. SEA PARROT (8), 46. LEAVING (8), 47. ATTENDANT (8), 48. ALL TYPES (8), 49. SUPPORTER (8), 50. WITH NO-ONE (8), 51. CRICKET-SIDE (8), 52. BEGINNING (8), 53. ONE TRYING (8), 54. MOTHER (8), 55. SEA PARROT (8), 56. LEAVING (8), 57. ATTENDANT (8), 58. ALL TYPES (8), 59. SUPPORTER (8), 60. WITH NO-ONE (8), 61. CRICKET-SIDE (8), 62. BEGINNING (8), 63. ONE TRYING (8), 64. MOTHER (8), 65. SEA PARROT (8), 66. 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